

THE TIMES

No. 65,697

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30 1996

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in the Magazine

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Chancellor says voters would be deeply suspicious of cuts in Budget

Clarke tax gaffe is gift to Labour

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

KENNETH CLARKE handed Labour a big pre-conference propaganda boost yesterday by suggesting that voters would be "deeply suspicious" of any tax cuts he made in the November Budget.

In an astonishingly frank remarks the Chancellor said people would remember that the Tories promised tax reductions at the last election and had been unable to deliver.

"Frothy tax cuts won't win a vote. It is not the case that my Budget requires tax cuts in order to win the election," he told GMTV's *Sunday* programme. "The public will be deeply suspicious of any tax cuts because they remember we promised tax cuts last time and unfortunately weren't about to deliver them, so they will look sideways at tax cuts from this Government."

"I completely reject the idea that the next election is entirely determined by whether or not I can lop 'X' amount off tax in November."

Even for the famously outspoken Chancellor it was a surprising intervention which provoked one critic, Bill Cash, MP for Stafford, to say that the remarks were so inept that Mr Clarke had ruled himself out as a serious politician.

Mr Clarke, interviewed in Washington, was equally controversial about the single currency, punching a hole in John Major's strategy of using Britain's place at the negotiating table as a means of trying to persuade other EU members of the dangers of pressing ahead.

Mr Clarke said: "I think it is likely the Euro-zone is going to emerge. It is set upon by most of the Continental countries who intend to go into economic and monetary union. I think six, seven, eight of them will

around the turn of the century. The idea that British policy can realistically stop the others going ahead is complete nonsense."

He said that he was opposed to the idea of a United States of Europe — but he also rejected the suggestion that Britain could flourish outside the EU as part of a European free trade area. "If you just go to the single market without being in the politics, all that happens is that you accept all the rules, you are subject to the court, you are not allowed to opt out of the social chapter, you let the others make the rules."

But with Labour certain to face internal difficulties as Gordon Brown finalises his tax strategy over the coming weeks, Mr Clarke's apparent gaffe was seized upon.

Mr Brown said that Labour was promising only what it could deliver. "Kenneth Clarke has said people are deeply suspicious of the Conservatives because they broke their promises. People are suspicious because the Conservatives made promises they knew they could not keep. It's an astonishing admission for a Government which now has no credibility on tax."

John Townsend, chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, disagreed with the Chancellor. "It is not that we did not deliver tax cuts. It is that we delivered significant tax increases. We started to put that right at the last Budget but it is important that we re-establish ourselves as a low-tax party."

Conference reports, pages 8, 9
George Brock, page 12
Peter Riddell, page 20
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Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie, at Blackpool's North Shore Methodist Church

Blair blows away more traces of union past

By Philip Webster, Jill Sherman and Philip Bassett

TONY BLAIR will bury his party's image as the political wing of the trade union movement tomorrow with a speech attempting to establish Labour as the party of enterprise in Britain.

In his last Labour conference speech before the General Election, Mr Blair is expected to tell both business and unions to forget the past, calling on them to form a partnership to create a fresh era of industrial relations.

Mr Blair is expected to refer to New Labour as "the political wing of the British people", a move likely to be seen as further evidence of his desire to distance the party from the unions. However, there were growing signs yesterday that the unions would not cause serious trouble for Mr Blair this week.

Party and union leaders spent much of yesterday working on deals to avoid embarrassing defeats for the leadership later this week on pensions and workers' rights. Last night the outcome on pensions was still uncertain, with the veteran former Cabinet minister Lady Castle pressing on with her campaign to improve state pensions. She accused

Continued on page 2, col 7



Netanyahu and Arafat to join peace summit

From Martin Fletcher and Christopher Walker

ISRAELI and Palestinian leaders are to meet in Washington early this week, possibly as early as tomorrow, in a bid to save the Middle East peace process.

President Clinton yesterday announced that Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, had accepted his invitation to a Washington summit designed to end the bloodshed engulfing the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr Clinton said Jordan's King Hussein had also agreed to attend, but Egypt's President Mubarak had yet to reply. Amr Moussa, Egypt's Foreign Minister, said Mr Mubarak wanted clear goals and Mr Netanyahu's commitment to abide by previous agreements. Administration officials expect the summit to begin tomorrow and to last two days.

Mr Clinton's announcement came as Israel deployed more tanks and armoured vehicles with-in striking distance of Palestinian self-rule areas, in the West Bank and Gaza, ready to re-take Palestinian territory if the violence continued under "Operation Field of Thorns".

"This is a crisis situation," warned Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State who brokered the summit during several days of intense behind-the-scenes diplomacy. The entire peace process was "in jeopardy". The Israelis and Palestinians had "looked over that abyss of violence and really wanted to turn back".

In agreeing to attend both men compromised. Mr Netanyahu had

wanted a prior end to Palestinian violence and, reportedly, a one-to-one meeting with Mr Arafat in Israel that would demonstrate his willingness to talk but avoid international pressure for concessions.

Mr Arafat had wanted a meeting in Cairo or Washington with international participation, plus the prior closing of the archaeological tunnel near a Muslim holy site whose opening by the Israeli Government last week sparked the violence. The tunnel remains open.

Mr Christopher said it was "the prestige of the United States that caused them to be willing to come here". He warned the world "shouldn't expect miracles" from the summit because the two men were "estranged" and "pretty raw". The important thing was "to get them back into direct contact".

The summit will also take place just five weeks before America's presidential election, placing Mr Clinton in an unusually delicate position. He would love to engineer a dramatic breakthrough. His advisers privately blame the renewed violence on the tunnel's reopening and Mr Netanyahu's stalling of the peace process but if Mr Clinton pressures the Israeli Prime Minister too hard he risks losing Jewish-American support.

Jews comprise three per cent of America's population but about six per cent of actual voters, and are particularly important in Florida, a normally-Republican state which Mr Clinton has high hopes of winning.

Defiant Israel, page 13

Jockey's record costs £20 million

A 25-year-old joiner was celebrating a £550,000 win after backing jockey Frank Dettori, who won an unprecedented seven victories at Saturday's Ascot race meeting. Darren Yates, of Morecambe, Lancashire, hit the jackpot with a £64 stake on a 50p Super Heinz accumulator bet on Dettori's winners. Bookmakers estimated that they had lost £20 million on Dettori's success. Pages 32, 33

Islamic era starts in Kabul

An accused thief was paraded through Kabul tied to the back of a lorry with banknotes stuffed into his ears and mouth, women were ordered into purdah and girls' schools were closed as the Taliban militia imposed Islamic law on the city. Pages 11, 21

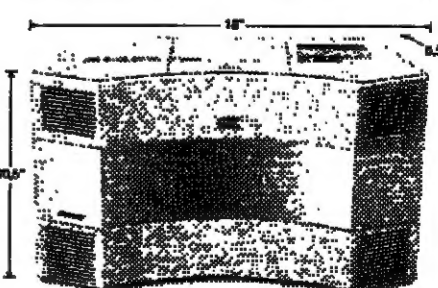
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Cambridge scientist 'leaked atom bomb secrets to USSR'

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

INTELLIGENCE papers to be released by the Public Records Office tomorrow are likely to unravel the mysterious past of a Cambridge scientist who is alleged to have leaked secrets of the United States atom bomb to the Soviet Union.

A host of new material about the Cambridge spy ring that included Donald Maclean, the Foreign Office liaison officer at the US Atomic Energy Commission, and Kim

Philby, the MI6 liaison officer to US intelligence agencies, is also anticipated.

But the role of Dr Theodore Hall, an American physicist who has lived in this country for 34 years, is particularly fascinating. Dr Hall, who lives with his wife Joan near Cambridge city centre, was named in Soviet and US documents released by the Americans earlier this year. He was identified as having passed information about the top secret US atom bomb project in Los Alamos, Mexico, to a Soviet agent.

There was immediate speculation that he was the missing link in one of the most controversial Cold War espionage scandals.

The Times has established that Dr Hall will feature in the British release of 2,500 Soviet intercepts collated in Operation Venona, a joint US and UK intelligence operation which trapped Soviet atom spies.

Last night Dr Hall, in his 70s and suffering from cancer and Parkinson's disease, declined to comment about his alleged role. Mrs Hall,

also American, who taught Russian and Italian at Cambridge, was unaware that new papers were to be released by the Government. She referred inquiries to their solicitor, Benedict Birnberg.

Mr Birnberg last night was surprised that the Government was releasing the Venona papers. He said: "We would prefer to wait and see what comes out before making any statement."

Dr Hall is known for his pioneering work in the field of biological X-ray microanalysis. This enabled

scientists to look at X-ray data through electron microscopes and work out the presence of various elements.

But earlier this year a report in the Washington Post alleged that Dr Hall was one of two agents who passed secrets of the US bomb code-named Manhattan to the Russians. The report said Dr Hall was likely to have been known to Moscow as "Mlad", or youngster.

The other agent was Klaus Fuchs, a refugee from Nazi Germany, who was part of the British delega-

tion to Los Alamos. He was convicted in Britain and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Mr Birnberg said last week that Dr Hall had already made clear he believed there were "numerous inaccuracies" in the Washington Post report and that he wished to make no comment about the report or about his time spent at Los Alamos.

Dr Hall is referred to by name in a Soviet intelligence document to Moscow from the KGB in New York in November 1944.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four face terrorist charges

Four men will appear in court today charged with terrorist offences following police raids last week. The men will appear at the high-security Belmarsh Magistrates' Court in southeast London, accused of conspiring to cause an explosion likely to endanger life or cause serious damage to property. They are also charged with possession of explosives.

Scotland Yard named them as Brian McHugh, 30, unemployed; Patrick Pearce Joseph Kelly, also 30 and unemployed; James Murphy, 28, a school groundsman; and Michael Phillips, 21, a British Airways apprentice engineer. A spokesman said: "We are not disclosing the addresses of those charged for operational reasons. There will be no further details released in connection with these charges."

Bridge rescue

Firemen abseiling alongside a man rescued him as he dangled by handcuffs from the Clifton suspension bridge for half an hour. He had been manacled by PC Richard Barnston to try to thwart his suicide attempt.

Kart boy killed

A boy of seven died yesterday when his motorised kart crashed on an indoor track. His mother was thought to have been watching as the kart left the track and hit side barriers at the Kart Raceway, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire.

Battleship repair

Royal Navy divers will begin work this week on repairing the sunken battleship HMS Royal Oak, which has leaked oil for 57 years since it was torpedoed by a German submarine in Scapa Flow with the loss of 833 lives.

First degrees

Britain's oldest business school is poised to become the pioneer for a new generation of private colleges awarding their own degrees. Henley Management College opened in 1945, pioneering today's most popular subject.

Flood alert issued

Parts of Britain were put on flood alert yesterday. North Wales and Cumbria were worst affected after 3in of rain. Roads in the Lake District were closed and motorists were forced to abandon their cars. Forecast, page 24

NHS takes top position in private healthcare

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE NHS has become the largest provider of private healthcare in Britain. The boom in the construction of private wings attached to trust hospitals and the opening of new pay beds has put the health service at the top of the private health league for the first time.

In 1995 the NHS earned £225 million from private work, just ahead of the £222.3 million earned by BUPA, its nearest rival, latest figures show. Its estimated 16.5 per cent share of the total private market has grown from 11 per cent in 1988. At the present rate it could claim 20 per cent by 2000.

The figures are disclosed in The Fitzhugh Directory of Independent Healthcare 1996-97, published today. William Fitzhugh, the publisher, said: "This is a remarkable situation. A state provider becomes market leader in a commercial market in 1996."

In some quarters there was embarrassment at its achievement, he said. "The NHS has mixed feelings about its role in the private sector. Whilst it wants the revenues it does not always want to be seen to be attracting the revenues."

The expansion of private work in NHS hospitals has been at the expense of the major private groups. After ten years of growth the total number of private beds declined last year for the first time to 11,098. Occupancy rates in some hospitals are low, which may put their future at risk, Mr Fitzhugh said.

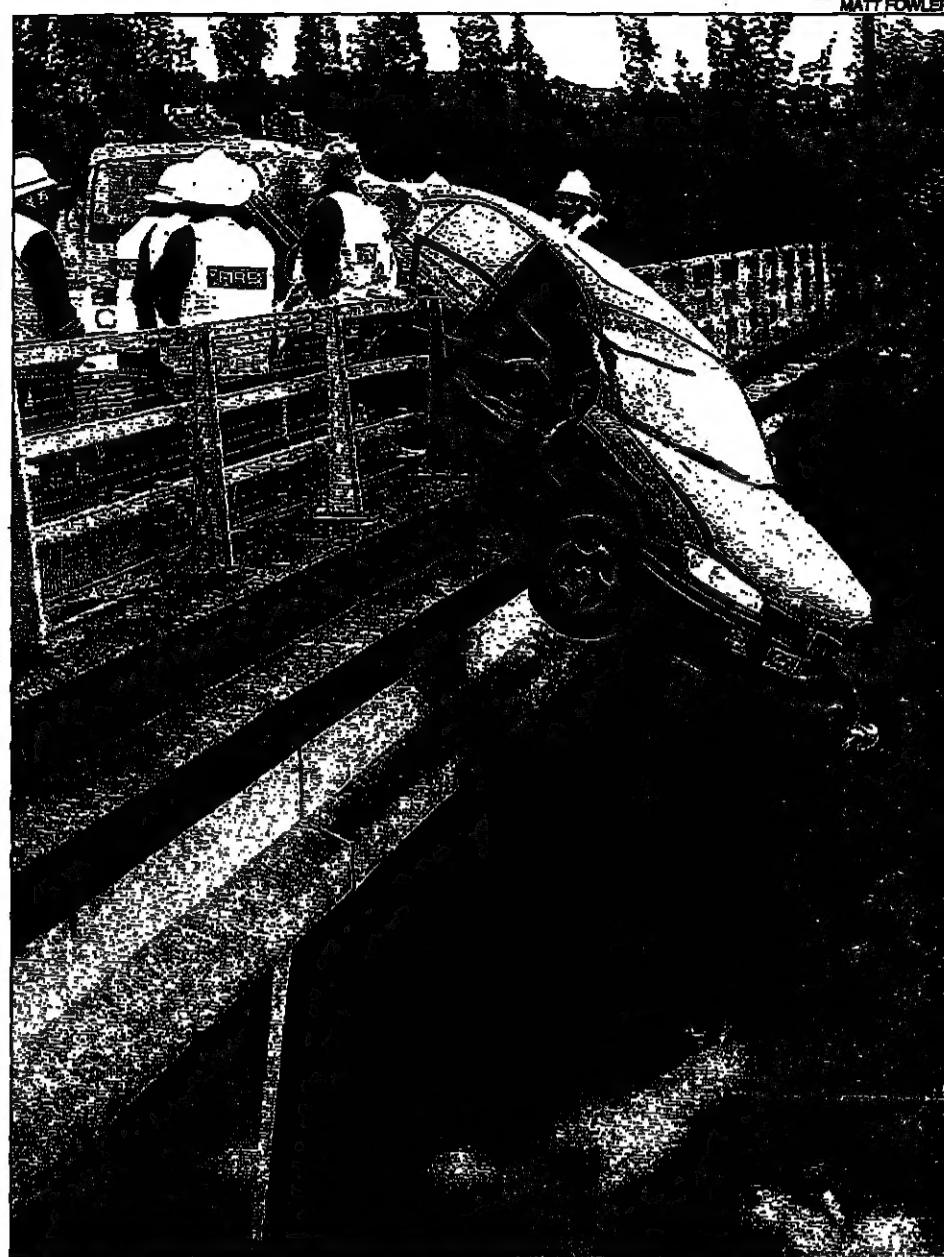
Twenty NHS trusts earned more than £2 million from

their private work in 1994-95. Top earner was Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Trust with revenue of £10 million. Other high earning hospitals were the Royal Marsden, the Royal Free, Hammersmith, University College and Great Ormond Street. Nine of the top ten earners were London hospitals.

The top ranking trust outside London was the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, at ninth place with revenue of £4.4 million. In total, 52 trusts earned more than £1 million from their private work.

The NHS gained its premier position after BMI, the French-owned group, last year's market leader, sold three of its major London hospitals to Columbia Healthcare, now the fourth largest provider behind the NHS, BUPA and BMI. Private providers have developed increasingly aggressive marketing in response to the threat from the NHS. Earlier this year, BUPA, the biggest health insurer, announced a policy which excludes patients from treatment in NHS pay beds—a move which the NHS Trust Federation claimed could cost the health service £50 million over the next four years.

Mr Fitzhugh said that as the size of the NHS's private business has grown, the potential threat from a Labour government has receded. "The forces to preserve and extend private sector activity are now too powerful to be eliminated. If a Labour Government is returned, one could expect them to discourage but not outlaw NHS private patient provision."



Helen Kenna was saved by two men as her car hung over a 60ft drop onto a road

Crash victim seeks shy rescuers

By HELEN JONES

A WOMAN said a special prayer in church last night after sitting for five minutes in a car hanging precariously over a 60ft drop from a bridge onto a busy dual carriageway.

As Helen Kenna prayed, her family appealed for two men who pulled her to safety from her crashed car to come forward. Her husband,

George, said he hoped he could thank them personally. Mrs Kenna, a shipping controller, 53, was unable to escape from the car, which was swaying in the wind above the A404M when one man held onto the other as he prised the car door open and pulled her to safety.

Police had responded to a number of calls from worried motorists reporting a black car dangling over the bypass at Millers, Buckinghamshire. But by the time they arrived Mrs Kenna was free and her rescuers had left.

Mrs Kenna, who was alone in the car, was treated for shock and a bruised arm. A Thames Valley Police spokesman said: "Another few inches and the car would have gone crashing. Goodness knows what mayhem and injuries that would have caused."

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His comments, at the end of a report which praised how staff were handling the young offenders, angered senior officials in the service and brought

Howard rebuffs prison inspector over wider role

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office has rebuffed attempts by the Chief Inspector of Prisons to extend his remit amid renewed anger among senior jail officials at his intervention in policy matters.

Sir David Ramsbotham's suggestion that his job should cover the Prison Service rather than just the inspection of prisons has been firmly rejected by government ministers and officials.

One senior source said: "It was informally suggested that he be inspector of the whole service but it is not going to happen. The fact is he is Chief Inspector of Prisons rather than the Prison Service."

Sir David has also annoyed ministers with robust comments in two reports of inspections, in which he called for the reappointment of a Director of Young Offenders and another to look after the interests of women prisoners in England and Wales.

In his report on Aylesbury young offender institution, Sir David said that the whole of the prison estate dealing with juvenile offenders required leadership, understanding and support from ministers and Prison Service headquarters at Westminster. He said they should provide "not only resources but also the vital mandatory training needed to equip staff to deal with the special needs of adolescents".

Sir David said: "My findings at Aylesbury have only increased my conviction that there should be a Director of Young Offenders in Prison Service headquarters at the earliest possible opportunity, responsible for overseeing all issues affecting this important and impressionable group of prisoners throughout England and Wales."

His comments, at the end of a report which praised how staff were handling the young offenders, angered senior officials in the service and brought

another rebuke for Sir David. The Chief Inspector, who took over from Judge Stephen Tumin last year for a five-year term, was informed that some of his comments were outside his remit. "It was pointed out to him just what the remit of the job is. His job is to inspect prisons; questions about resources and new directors are for ministers and the prisons board," the Whitehall source said.

A Prison Service source pointed out that the job of the Chief Inspector of Prisons was



Ramsbotham: in first year of five-year post

to inspect and report to the Home Secretary on prison service establishments, conditions in them and the treatment of prisoners and facilities available to them.

There have been other disputes between Sir David and the Home Office. Three months ago Michael Howard tried to stop him discussing prison policy in public. Mr Howard attempted to "reign in" Sir David amid concern at the high public profile adopted by the Chief Inspector. After holding a press conference on the second day of an inspection at Doncaster prison in south Yorkshire, Sir David was told by the Secretary of State that he was expected to report to him, not the media.

Slow councils withhold thousands of grants

By DAVID CHARTER

THOUSANDS of students are being deprived of money which is rightfully theirs by slow-paying local authorities. Payment of grants in some areas is so slow students cannot afford to buy books and some even face fines for failing to meet their financial obligations, according to the National Union of Students.

Haverling Council is one of seven local authorities which only deliver three quarters or less of their grants before a university term starts, an audit commission survey showed. Just half of the 116 local authorities in England and

Wales had paid all their grants out by October 10 in 1994, the year of the survey. Douglas Trainer, NUS president said: "We are very angry that despite requests from the previous education secretary, John Patten, local authorities still consider it is all right to deprive students of what is rightfully theirs."

He added: "Many university terms start in September so thousands of students are going without their grant for weeks at a time. This is especially traumatic for first years who are having to come with living away from home for the first time."

The audit commission said:

"Late arrival of these cheques can cause students big problems, forcing them to borrow money and make temporary financial arrangements."

The second slowest authority was Knowsley, in Merseyside (59 per cent of grants paid on time) followed by Cambridgeshire (64 per cent on time), Durham (66 per cent), North Tyneside and the London boroughs of Newham, and Hammersmith & Fulham (all 68 per cent). However the audit commission found the average performance had risen from 59 per cent in 1993 to 95 per cent.

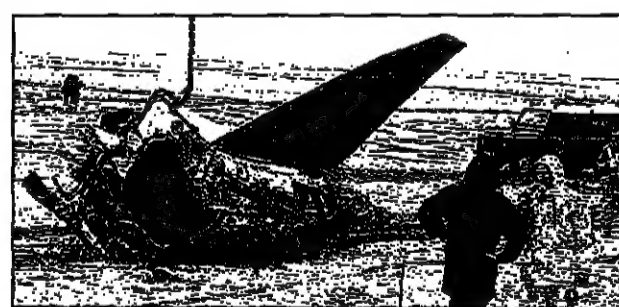
□ The Times Freshers' Supplement is published today

Crash Tornado recovered

SALVAGE workers recovered the wreckage of a Tornado jet from the sea off Blackpool sections yesterday.

The aircraft, which crashed on Saturday just yards from the south beach in front of thousands of day trippers, was hauled from the waves in two separate parts by cranes, but one engine remained missing. Other rescue workers picked up bits of debris, including the "black box" flight recorder, which will be examined by the Ministry of Defence and British Aerospace.

The two crewmen who ejected safely remained in hospital last night. They were praised for managing to ditch the ailing aircraft in the sea. Roy Minnear, director of Blackpool airport, said: "Had they not done that I hate to think



The Tornado is dragged across Blackpool beach

what would have happened the whole area was packed with visitors. The fuel alone was a major public danger."

The plane had just made a 500ft pass over Blackpool airport after flying at low level, with its undercarriage down, over the neighbouring resort of Lytham St Annes. Bill

Hankin, a guesthouse owner, said: "You could see smoke coming out of the tail. The pilot was fighting—definitely fighting to keep it in the air. He must have been deliberately going out to sea to avoid crashing in a built up area. Those two aircrew deserve medals."

Blair cuts links

Continued from page 1 the leadership of "trying to put the firefighters" on delegates with its demands for public spending restraint.

But the likelihood of a serious reverse on union rights appeared to have disappeared after a motion acceptable to both unions and party leaders was agreed.

Although Mr Blair's team is increasingly confident of a good conference week, there are obvious tensions over the line to take on taxation.

While Gordon Brown has told leadership colleagues that he is considering a 50p top rate of tax, levied on earnings of more than £100,000 as The Times disclosed last week, Mr Blair appears still to favour leaving the 40p top rate unchanged. In an interview in

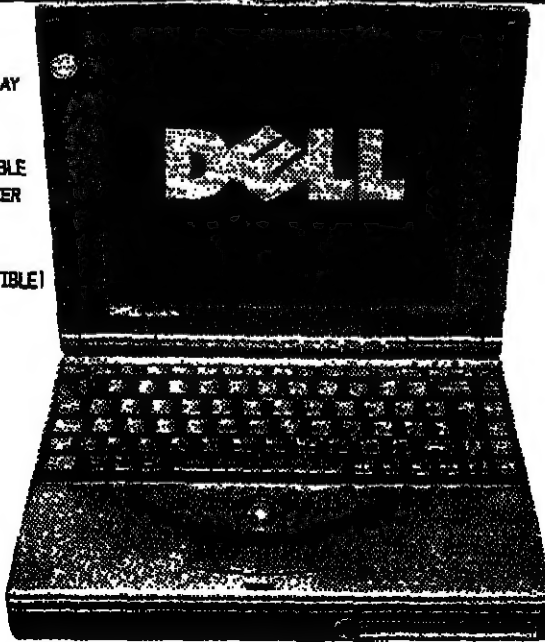
The Observer yesterday he indicated that he would like to go into an election without promising any increase in tax. He said: "When people accuse me of being too cautious, what they really mean is 'you are not saying their taxes are going to go up'. Well no, I am not saying that. It's absolutely true I am not saying that."

However, others in the Shadow Cabinet, notably Robin Cook, would like to be far more radical than Mr Brown, bringing in a top rate at a much lower level.

Mr Brown is thought to believe that it would be more credible for Labour to go into the election with a 50p rate for the highest earners, than to pledge no tax cuts. Yesterday, he hinted on BBC television that he favoured some change.

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Premiere for forgotten scenes from an epic life in politics

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

AN EPIC film tracing the life of the former prime minister, Lloyd George, presumed lost for decades, is to receive its London premiere next month, nearly 80 years later than scheduled.

The *Story of David Lloyd George*, a three-hour silent movie, was filmed in 1918 but mysteriously disappeared months later before it was cut



Lloyd George pictured in 1933

and completed, amid accusations of government interference, libel and blackmail.

A collection of reels, believed to be the only surviving copy of the film, was discovered stuffed in a lead-lined casket in the barn of the statesman's youngest grandson, Viscount Tenby. It was only a chance telephone call that rescued the film from oblivion.

"I had been invited to attend a screening of an amateur-made Lloyd George film, at the Welsh Institute of Television and Film archive," Lord Tenby said. "I telephoned to say I couldn't go but mentioned it was a shame as I would have liked to compare the film with my version. There was a pause at the end of the phone and the girl tentatively asked me if I had any more films. I told her I'd got a barnful."

Days later, John Reed, preservation officer at the Institute, arrived at Lord Tenby's home with a van equipped



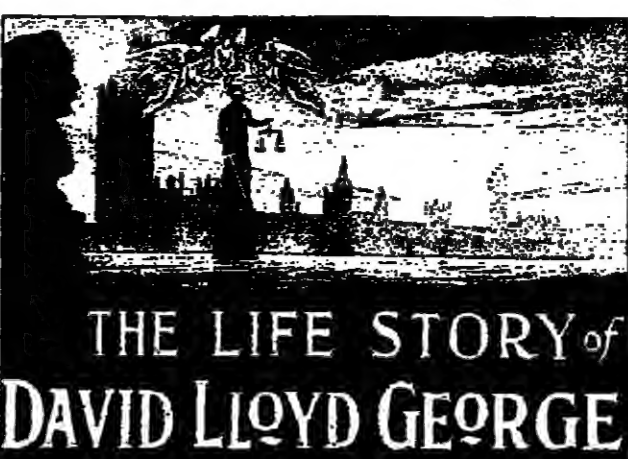
Missing, presumed lost: it was thought the only copy of the film was destroyed after it was bought by government agents for £20,000. The makers were accused of German sympathies

with special freezers to carry away the films of potentially explosive films, made of nitrate cellulose. "As we were clearing them out, there was a leaden chest among the spools," Lord Tenby said. "It was obviously something set apart and was packed with spools."

After beginning the painstaking process of transferring the film on to modern materi-

al, Mr Reed said there was a moment of great excitement when technicians realised what they had stumbled upon. "We all assumed it would be newsreels but then we realised it was some sort of costume drama. Gradually, we recognised it as the long lost Lloyd George film."

The film, packed with scenes of suffragette clashes, trench warfare and election



THE LIFE STORY of DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

euphoria, traces the career of the Welsh statesman from his humble birth in a cottage to the cabinet rooms.

It was directed by the celebrated Maurice Elvey, and stars Alma Reville, who later became Alfred Hitchcock's wife, as Lloyd George's daughter, Megan, with the famous West End actor Norman Page in the title role.

Lord Tenby is also convinced that his grandfather makes a cameo appearance in the final frames of the film in a victory parade scene.

The mystery surrounding the disappearance of the film, a sympathetic but uncontro-

versal portrait of the charismatic leader, has never been resolved. It was withdrawn by its film company, *Ideal* of Wardour Street, after a magazine article accused its direc-

tors of being German sympathisers. *Ideal* successfully sued for libel but in a recently discovered memoir



He claimed solicitors from government offices had arrived at his home, given him £20,000 in notes and taken away the only copy of the film.

Historians and film buffs alike have for years assumed it had been destroyed.

Now, after one screening in Cardiff, its long-abandoned premiere in the capital is to be realised. It will be shown at the National Film Theatre on November 1 as part of a celebration of film archivists' work. "Nothing prepared us for the impact of the film on the big screen," Lord Tenby said.

Woman forgives husband for £60 flutter that paid off

By TIM JONES

ANNALY YATES was furious. Her husband, Darren, 30, had been down the bookies' again with money the family could not really afford.

By Saturday night, however, Mrs Yates was prepared to forgive him his £64 flutter — partly because she doesn't really object to him having a bet, but mainly because of the £500,000 he had picked up against huge odds. Mr Yates had backed jockey Frank Dettori to win all seven races at Ascot with a 50p Heinz accumulator.

The joiner, of Morecambe, Lancashire, who has a two-year-old daughter Nathalie, travelled to London to meet Dettori and said: "He is my hero. I could have kissed the ground he was galloping on."

He plans now to buy his own racehorse and ask Dettori to ride it for him.

His wife said: "I don't mind him betting, but I wasn't so keen on him putting on the bet yesterday morning because £60 is a lot of money for us."

Dettori's feat of becoming the first jockey to ride all seven winners at one meeting on Saturday cheered punters across the country and plunged bookmakers into gloom. It was their worst day in the history of the sport. Scores of one shop bookies are expected to go out of business.

William Hill alone paid out more than £1.2m to five gamblers and said they had lost count of pay outs totalling more than £100. A Ladbrokes customer also made £500,000

after making a £5 each way accumulator bet. A very bad Grand National is regarded by the industry as losses of £2 million. Saturday was on a different scale. Rob Harnett of Coral said: "You cannot put it in context because there is no context."

Graham Sharp of William Hill said: "It is our equivalent of the American stock market crash. Quite simply, we spent the day just throwing money at people who came to us."

The fifth win was expensive, the sixth dismal and after the seventh it was time to put the lights out. Ladbrokes paid out almost £500,000 in Ireland and Paddy Power bookmakers also reported that one man won £132,000 at a Dublin branch.

Once Dettori had won Saturday's fourth race, the bookies, large and small knew



Darren Yates, who won £500,000 on his bet

disaster was in the air and tried, too late, to offload bets to others — who knew the same. He went into the record books with wins on *Wall Street* (2-1 favourite), *Diffident* (12-1), *Mark of Esteem* (100-30), *Decorated Hero* (7-1), *Fatefully* (7-4 favourite), *Lockangel* (5-4 joint favourite) and *Pajama Crest* (2-1 favourite).

Yesterday, Dettori, whose father was an Italian champion jockey, was basking in the glory and said he had received more congratulatory messages than had Bill Clinton did on becoming president.

Mr Yates, meanwhile, went down to his local William Hill's yesterday to pick up his cheque and place the same bet on Dettori. Mrs Yates said the telephone had not stopped ringing as friends and family called to congratulate them.

Punters at his local betting shop cheered and shook his hand as he backed Dettori to repeat his sweep of the board. But the bookmakers were able to return the revolvers and bottles of whisky were returned to the drawers after the champion jockey failed to emulate his historic feat and managed to win only the last race.

Mr Sharp of William Hill said: "If he had repeated his success today there would have been a line of bookmakers queuing to jump off the stand at Ascot."

Race Card, Page 32
Beyond boundaries, Page 33



Marie-Claire Harrison told judges she feared for the rain forests, but liked water sports and horse riding

Clitheroe queen pockets Tirana brass

By RICHARD OWEN

ALBANIA is not best known for its beauty contests but a British model was crowned Miss Europe 96 yesterday against the unlikely backdrop of Tirana's Stalinist-era Palace of Congresses.

In the process, Marie-Claire Harrison, 23, from Clitheroe, Lancashire, may have done more for Albania's image than five years of efforts by the post-Communist regime to put the country's backwardness and

isolation behind it. The trapping of western life were banned by the Enver Hoxha regime, one of the most paranoid Communist dictatorships in history.

But the current Miss England may have heralded the more glamorous future the new regime hopes to bring to Albanians. Miss Harrison, who won by impressing the judges in evening dress as well as swimwear, offered a glimpse of a world in which horse riding, dancing, water

sports and fencing are normal amusements for a 23-year-old. She told them her ideal man was Sting, not only because she found him attractive but also because he had "a strong character and has done a lot for the Amazon rain forests", a concern she shared.

Miss Harrison won \$20,000 (£13,300) in prize money and a traditional folk costume from Tirana city council, was given her crown by last year's winner, Monica Zidkova of the Czech Republic. The contest,

the 49th Miss Europe Competition, was broadcast to 200 million European viewers.

The other contestants, who like Miss Harrison had stayed in Albania for two weeks before yesterday's contest, said the sheer beauty of the countryside and coastline had won them over despite primitive conditions and communications problems.

"I think I'll come here for my holidays next year," joked Tracy Kemble of the United States, the compere.

Bye-law aims to break up walkies in packs

By A STAFF REPORTER

PROFESSIONAL dog walkers who exercise dozens of pets at a time on one of London's largest open spaces are being brought to heel.

Britain's first bye-law to control them comes into effect on Wimbledon Common tomorrow after complaints from people who have been intimidated by walkers exercising as many as 30 dogs at a time. The bye-law is being introduced by the Wimbledon Common Conservators after approval by the Environment Department.

Owners who cannot spare time to exercise their dogs turn increasingly to companies charging about £6 a day to collect pets and take them for walks. Some walkers operating individually charge as much as £7 per dog per hour. Jim Reader, head ranger for the 1,100 acres of Wimbledon Common, says: "It is very intimidating to see a pack of dogs running loose."

The new bye-law restricts people to exercising a maximum of four dogs at a time. Those who continue to exercise more after a ranger's warning face a £25 fine. Mr Reader, who walks his own Irish setter and golden retriever on the common, says: "A Yorkshire terrier has been killed by a rottweiler being exercised by a professional walker. Not only are these packs of dogs frightening but they also leave a lot of mess."

The conservators' stand is backed by the National Canine Defence League. Its chief executive, Clarissa Baldwin, says: "We believe it is not responsible or safe to walk more than four dogs in a public place at any one time. It would be almost impossible to control them in an emergency such as a dogfight or accident."

The league says dog walkers should either have a governing body to set standards or be licensed by the local authority. But professional dog trainer and walker Mark Thompson, who runs The Dog House in Wandsworth, says the new bye-law would force walkers on to other open spaces, and would penalise responsible handlers. He and his two helpers each exercise 10 animals at a time on Wimbledon Common and other commons and dogs were put through an obedience training course before being let off the lead.

Shake a leg or risk a break, fans told

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE perils of being an armchair football supporter have been highlighted by doctors after two fans suffered serious injuries while watching England play Germany in the Euro 96 semi-final.

The women supporters were injured after watching Alan Shearer, the England striker, score the opening goal. They leapt out of their seats to celebrate by jumping up and down in front of their television sets — and broke their legs.

Experts said their injuries were worse than would be expected among the players in the match. One woman, 36, fractured her heel while the second, 54, cracked the top of her shin bone, requiring an operation to insert two

screws and a bone graft. Dr Peter Hallam, who treated the women at Barnet General Hospital, said he was astonished at the severity of the injuries. "It is the kind of thing you normally see in someone who has jumped off a bridge in a suicide attempt." A third patient who had broken a leg in the excitement after Shearer's goal had arrived at the hospital's casualty department but had been treated elsewhere.

Watching football, especially at stadiums and in pubs, was "quite dangerous" he said. "I have seen people who have passed out with excitement. I have not seen heart attacks but they certainly occur. I can only suggest that if people are watching football on television that they should wear adequate training shoes. They are more absorbent if they

jump up and down." Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, he suggests that armchair supporters should take the same precautions as the players. "Perhaps this sort of injury might be prevented by a pre-match warm up and the correct footwear," he says.

Lynda Daley, chairwoman of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine, said: "I am absolutely amazed. These are the sort of injuries you see after a road accident. I can't imagine what they were doing."

Dr Robert Byrne of the British Association of Sports Medicine said that heart attacks and strokes were the biggest risks among supporters. But he dismissed the warm-up idea. "We can't get the athletes to do it so I don't think there is much hope with Joe Public."

Cats not man's best friend

By RUSSELL JENKINS

MEN have a secret relationship with their cats that they are ashamed to talk about, an academic survey has concluded. Contrary to popular belief they do turn to their pets for emotional support when the going gets tough but they just don't like to admit it. They think of their cats as playmates, not confidantes.

Dr John Bradshaw, director of the Anthrozoology Institute at Southampton University, discovered that there is a fundamental difference in the way men and women react to their cats. He interviewed 77

women cat-owners and 42 men owners — aged between 18 and 84 — and asked them to describe their relationship with the animal. The results from women are much as the academics expected. They used words like companion, affectionate and reassuring: "What one would expect," said Dr Bradshaw.

Men were less enthusiastic about opening up about their emotional pet life. They were even more reticent about talking about those times when their cat has been "there for them". "When we looked at the men, they were less likely to turn to cats but,

nonetheless, the ones who did needed to describe cats in a different dimension," said Dr Bradshaw, co-presenter of television's *Cat Crazy* programme. "The words they used were playful, excitable, attention-seeking. They were grouped together as if they enjoyed slightly boisterous interaction, rather than a close quiet chat. The relationship was bordering on child-like."

Dr Bradshaw believes that men are looking to cats to fill the gap traditionally occupied by dogs. Their relationship with the family cat is a substitute for the dog they are not allowed to have.

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Spitfire ace's widow fights refusal of war pension

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE widow of a decorated Spitfire pilot who died of cancer 20 years after serving on Christmas Island during Britain's atomic bomb tests has been refused both a war pension and her husband's RAF pension.

June Charney, widow of Group Captain Kenneth Charney, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar in the Second World War, has been fighting unsuccessfully for a war pension for six years. Group Captain Charney, who died aged 62 after 30 years in the RAF, displayed all the symptoms of cancer, including excessive weight loss.

He spent four years on Christmas Island between 1958 and 1962 and, like other British servicemen, "merely covered his eyes with his hands" when witnessing the nuclear explosions. He was sent there as commanding officer.

Mrs Charney said: "He told me that he would come out to watch the mushroom clouds and that he could see through to the bones of his fingers as he covered his eyes, like an X-ray." She is convinced that he developed his cancer from that time.

However, when he died weighing only 56 after many years of illness, a doctor in Andorra, where he had retired, wrote on his death certificate that he had died of alcoholism and heart failure. That was enough for Mrs Charney to lose her application for a war widow's pension at a tribunal hearing in 1994.

Now, with the help of a retired consultant pathologist who is convinced that the former Spitfire pilot died of cancer, Mrs Charney, 66, is to have her case reviewed by a

war pensions appeals tribunal. Yesterday Mrs Charney, who lives in Eastbourne, East Sussex, said: "I'm very proud of what Ken did for his country and it seems so unfair that I have to fight for a war widow's pension. A proper pension would make all the difference to my life."

Under a rule bitterly opposed by retired service chiefs and the Officers' Pension Society, Mrs Charney has also been barred from receiving her husband's service pension because she married him in 1978, eight years after he retired from the RAF.

Richard Goodbody, a consultant pathologist for 33 years and still working in retirement, said death certificates were often incorrect or incomplete. He said it was clear from the evidence that Group Captain Charney had died from cancer.

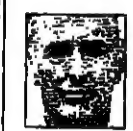
Dr Goodbody ridiculed the suggestion that the wartime pilot had died from alcoholism. There was no evidence for this in his medical records. He said it was apparently common for doctors in Andorra to give alcoholism as a cause of death without any tests being carried out.

Mrs Charney said her husband had refused to see a doctor although he suspected he had cancer. "He was scared stiff of doctors," she said.

Group Captain Charney won the Distinguished Flying Cross after shooting down a number of German fighter aircraft. In July 1944 he was awarded a Bar to the DFC when he spotted the retreating German army gathered in the Falaise pocket in Normandy, while flying overhead in his Spitfire with 602 Squadron. He passed on the crucial intelligence.



June Charney says her husband Kenneth developed cancer from exposure to atomic bomb tests



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Short temper may bring longer life

THE case for prescribing hormone replacement therapy for women as one of the means of reducing the incidence of, and the death rate from, fractured bones that have been weakened by osteoporosis is generally accepted. In women who have not had a hysterectomy, however, the oestrogen that protects the bones can cause malignant change in the uterine lining.

This increased likelihood of womb cancer is overcome by prescribing a progestogen preparation to be taken with the oestrogen for part of the cycle. The progestogen removes the increased risk of endometrial cancer. Unfortunately, it can cause premenstrual-type syndrome in some patients, a frequent reason for abandoning HRT. In nearly a third of the women who take HRT the progestogen results in tension, irritability and occasional tears or, at worst, causes physical aggression and the possibility of rages for a few days each month.

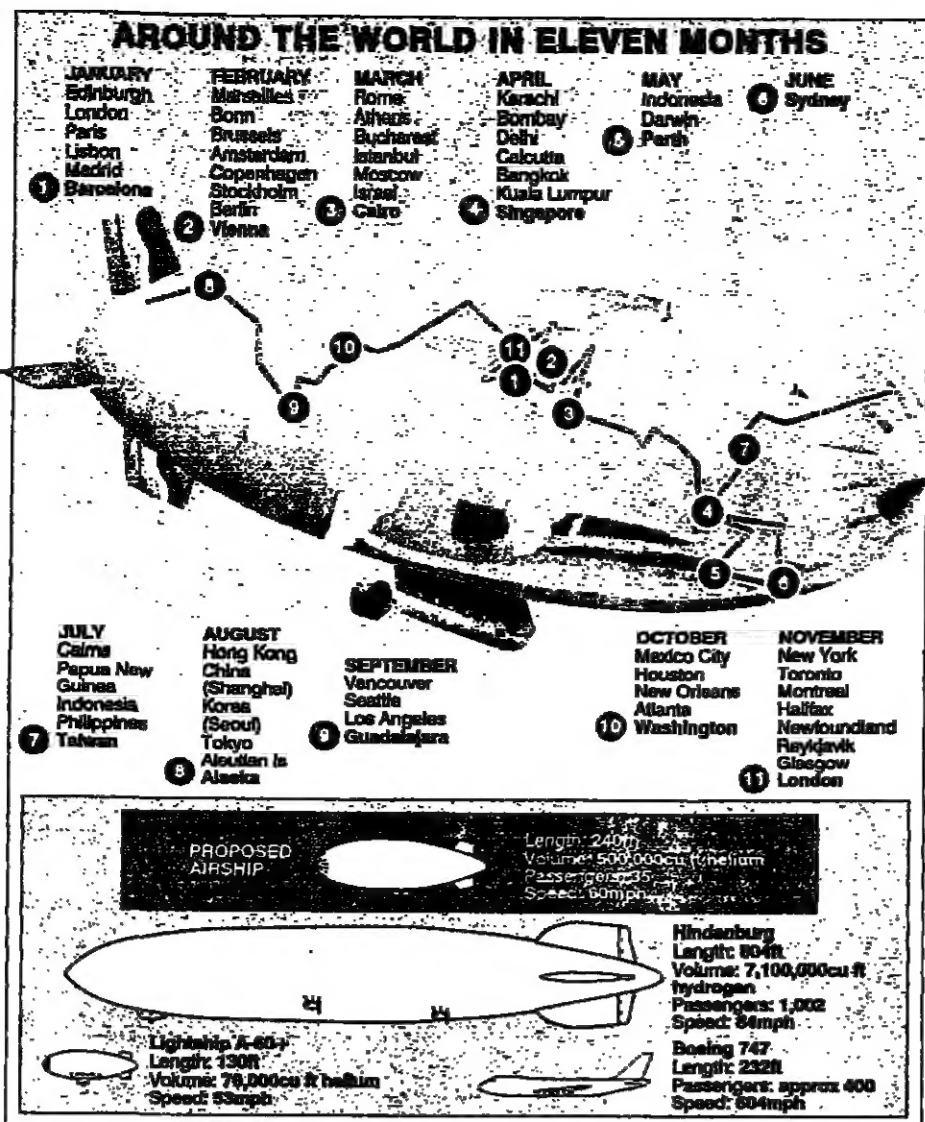
It is also accepted that the type of oestrogen used in HRT reduces the likelihood that a woman will suffer a heart attack by 30 to 50 per cent, and the risk of a stroke by half. For a variety of reasons, women who take oestrogen can expect to live an additional two or three years on average. Patients may also find their last years more rewarding because HRT reduces, or postpones, the advent of some forms of senile dementia.

worrying doctors is whether the progestogen added to HRT to reduce the risk of uterine cancer may also remove the advantages that the oestrogen provides to the cardiovascular system with the reduction in the numbers of strokes, heart attacks and dementia.

The magazine *Doctor* recently reviewed a study of 60,000 whose HRT included progestogen as well as oestrogen. It might have been expected that the progestogen would have upset the balance between the "good" and "bad" types of cholesterol in the blood. The pernicious low-density lipoprotein cholesterol might have been increased and the cardio-protective high-density lipoprotein cholesterol might have been reduced. There is encouraging news in *Doctor* for the result of this mammoth survey suggests that the cholesterol balance is unchanged in women who take progestogen and that the combined oestrogen/progestogen HRT regime does not remove the cardiovascular protection.

It seems that women taking progestogen will live longer but if they are to retain their peace of mind and family harmony it may be as well for them to try different types of progestogen until they have found a preparation that does not tempt them to throw the plates at their partners for a few days in each cycle.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD



Luxury airship to set sail for the new millennium

By OLIVER AUGUST

A BRITISH balloonist is building the biggest airship since the *Hindenburg* and is planning a year-long trip around the world. Mike Kendrick, 50, the organiser of Richard Branson's balloon adventures, will take up to 35 people with him and stop over at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

Passengers are to enjoy a luxurious flight with a bird's eye view of the world's most spectacular vistas. They will also be the first people in aviation history to make such a journey.

The airship *Millennia* will be capable of flying 3,000 miles non-stop at 60 mph. Its length of 248 feet will make it the world's biggest existing airship. It is being commissioned by The Lightship Group, a joint venture partnership between Virgin and American Blimp, the US airship manufacturer.

Mr Kendrick, managing director of TLG, said: "We will see places not accessible over land. I am very excited at the prospect of floating quickly above a watering hole in the desert and watching the game." The gondola,



Kendrick to take up to 35 passengers

there the airship will cross America on its return to London.

Mr Kendrick is the managing director of Mr Branson's Virgin balloon and airship company, and was the project director on Mr Branson's balloon trips across the Atlantic and the Pacific.

However, he does not yet have a definitive passenger list. "We are hoping to have quite a few children on the trip, in connection with a charity. We will also be picking up locals from every country where we stop over."

Mr Branson is expected to join Mr Kendrick on the first leg of the trip from Edinburgh to London. Pilots for the *Millennia* are being recruited and trained at the project's headquarters in Telford, Shropshire.

The gondola is made of high-strength fibreglass and the triple-laminated envelope is bullet-proof. About 500,000 cubic feet of helium, a non-flammable gas, will keep the airship aloft.

In 1937 the world's biggest airship, the German-built *Hindenburg*, exploded as it tried to moor in New Jersey after a flight across the Atlantic, killing 35 passengers.



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Villagers oppose Hindu sect's plan for child centre

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

VILLAGERS have greeted with "fear and apprehension" plans by a Hindu sect to set up a centre for children in a remote part of western Ireland.

The sect, Ananda Marga, was linked in the 1970s with murder, terrorism and self-immolation. Local people in Whitegate, Co. Clare, are concerned that the Indian group has chosen their village as the site for a large centre accommodating 200 people.

Founded in Bihar in 1953 by a former railway clerk later accused of murder, Ananda Marga has bought 37 acres of land in the Slieve Aughy mountains, about five miles from Whitegate. It has applied to Clare County Council for permission to build a conference centre for 200 people, a restaurant for 100 people, dormitories for 50 people and staff facilities.

It would be the organisation's biggest centre in the British Isles and would be used by children from both sides of the Irish Sea. Paddy Buglar, a local Fine Gael county councillor, said people were worried because they knew nothing about Ananda Marga's background or intentions. The sect left no address on its planning application, which was lodged under the name of Sunrise Education Trust. The trust is the education branch of

Ananda Marga and runs schools for children in Stoke Newington, north London, and Birmingham.

"The feeling of the people here is total apprehension and fear. We are mainly Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland in this area and people are afraid that young people who are impressionable might be persuaded to adopt all these different ideas," Mr Buglar said.

The beauty of east Clare has long been popular with New Age groups and individuals seeking an alternative lifestyle.

Ananda Marga, which is new to the area, wants to build the centre in a rugged area on the Clare-Galway border overlooking Lough

Derg, an ancient place of pilgrimage for Catholics. Ian Haworth, director of the Cult Information Centre in London, claimed the villagers were right to be concerned. He described the sect as "a very dangerous group".

Ananda Marga, or "path to bliss", came to international attention in the 1970s when Prabhakar Ranjan Sarkar, its leader and founder, was jailed in India on allegations that he conspired to murder former members.

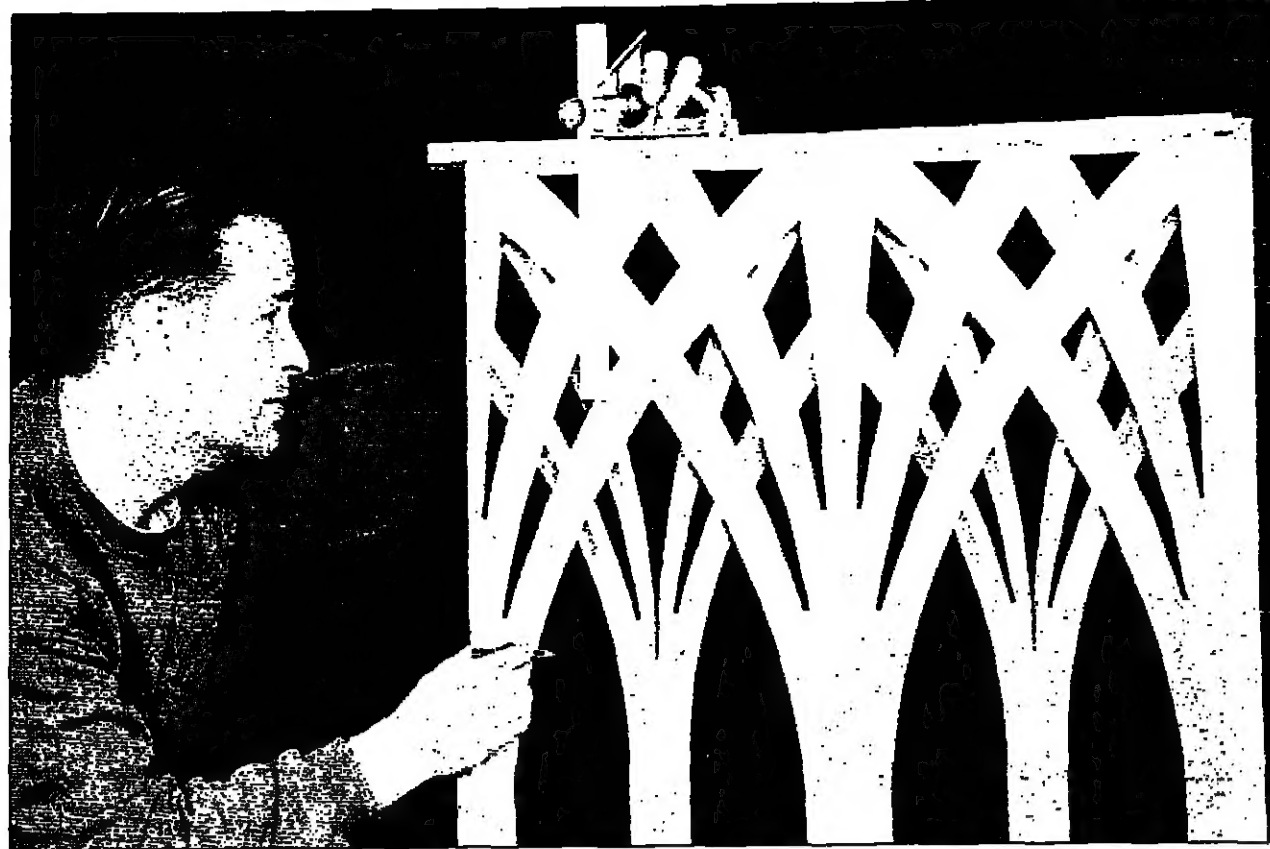
Known to his followers as Shri Shri Anandamurti — which roughly translates as "one upon seeing him falls into bliss" — he was jailed for seven years but never found guilty. His followers burnt themselves to death and hijacked planes in protest.

Didi Ananda Kaomudi, the director of teaching at the Sunrise Education Trust and organiser of the proposed centre in Clare, said the organisation had changed completely since the 1970s. She said the imprisonment of their spiritual leader was the underhand work of Indira Gandhi, who banned Ananda Marga during the Indian national emergency. She described the hijackings as "harmless" because the sect members were unarmed.

The movement has 2,000 instructors but membership details are secret.



Buglar: worried about influence on the young



Andy Till working on part of a screen for the antechamber. Below, an artist's impression of the finished room

Windsor's ruined halls await new heart of oak

THE first of eight massive oak columns will this week be lowered through the roof of Windsor Castle, devastated by fire almost four years ago.

The initial attempt to manoeuvre the 52-foot high columns into a "new" octagonal chamber designed by the architect Giles Downes was abandoned last week when high winds made it unsafe. The columns, each a hollow cluster of 25 oak ribs, are the first pieces of an intricate jigsaw that will eventually form a new antechamber to Windsor's St George's Hall. The chamber, created entirely of English oak from trees about 150

years old, will form part of the £40 million restoration programme, expected to be complete by March 1998. Each of the eight sections of the antechamber, including the first-floor balcony and the central lantern, will be constructed in the workshops of Henry Venables of Stafford by the 150-year-old firm's carpenters, then dismantled and transported to the castle for reassembly.

Chuck Venables, the managing director, said: "English oak helped to make this country what it is. This is the most complex piece of work we have ever done. We're creating something that will last hundreds of years."



Parents 'use fraud to secure school places'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FRAUD, blackmail and financial threats against the Church of England are on the increase as parents fight to secure school places for their children, it is claimed.

A surge in Sunday church attendance may be linked less to a religious revival than to a desire to secure a place in the local church school, which is seen by many parents as superior to most state comprehensive schools.

As parents blame poor education for a decline in moral and spiritual values among the nation's youth, the demand for places at church schools has taken off to the point where in some areas, supply is far outstripped.

Some schools have been forced to set up a point system, under which parents must go to church regularly with their children in order to get their child into the school.

According to Charnel 4's Witness, to be broadcast tomorrow night, desperate parents have resorted to falsifying forms to secure a place, or even to blackmail, threatening to withdraw their financial covenant unless the church minister supports their attendance claims.

In one Church of England school, Canon Slade in Bolton, Lancashire, applications for places have doubled in seven years, forcing the number of points needed to gain a place to be increased from 13 to 31 in three years.

The school, which tops the local league for academic success, takes 340 new pupils each year and insists parents must attend church weekly for four years with their children, to earn their 31 points.

The Rev Peter Shepherd, the headmaster, said the school's distinctive feature was its Christian ethos. "Pastoral care is extremely good. Discipline is extremely good," he said, arguing that the points system was inevitable and that class size had to be kept down.

"It would be very, very difficult to get any more children into this class. We do not have elastic walls."

Nuns fight to keep convent dry

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A GROUP of nuns goes to court next month to prevent a developer selling alcohol at their former convent. It is the second time the Sisters of the Community of St Peter have objected to their old home at Horbury in Wakefield, west Yorkshire, being used for entertainment.

Two years ago they successfully convinced licensing justices that plans for receptions, banquets and other events in the 130-year-old building were unsuitable. Magistrates had to intervene when several nuns jeered John Kirby, the developer who bought the dilapidated convent for £440 in 1989.

The court rejected his application for a

full drinks licence but Mr Kirby is not applying to open part as a banqueting suite. Mother Robina, head of the community, said: "I will be making the same objections as two years ago. Using our former convent as a restaurant and for drinking would affect our lives because we live so close."

David Hinchliffe, Labour MP for Wakefield, who backed the nuns previously, said: "I have told Mother Robina that I still support her and am prepared to go to court on her behalf. I don't think the circumstances have changed."

Two years ago the nuns told magistrates that they had sold the convent to Mr Kirby for a nominal sum and the grounds for £250,000 as a way out of mounting

financial problems. They were allowed to remain in a former guest-house and Mr Kirby offered to run the site. The nuns felt Mr Kirby had taken advantage of them when they heard he was converting the top two floors into a dining suite and had applied for an alcohol licence.

Mr Kirby said the nuns had not imposed a covenant prohibiting such uses. He said he had paid £500,000 for structural repairs and refurbishing after years of neglect and the property had a negative value of £250,000.

He said he had offered to allow church officials to mediate in the dispute. "I was appalled and aghast at the sight of them going into court last time," he said. "It seemed un-Christian."

Catholics pray for bishop

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

CATHOLICS in Argyll and the Isles prayed yesterday for "a good, holy bishop" to be sent to them to replace Roderick Wright. The prayers were said at Mass in the cathedral in Oban, the heart of the diocese, which has a Catholic population of 11,494.

Morning Mass was taken by Archbishop Keith O'Brien, a temporary replacement for the former bishop, who said that there had been "worry, hurt and anger" expressed over the former bishop. The

archbishop went on to present a three-fold plan for the future.

This involved a series of pastoral visits that the Archbishop would carry out, plans for next year's 140th anniversary of Saint Columba bringing Christianity from Iona to mainland Scotland, and plans for the millennium.

He said: "We will remember all of you during our day of prayer together. As we also pray that the Holy Spirit may send us a good, holy bishop in the not too distant future." The

archbishop said he believed God still loved Mr Wright. "Surely Jesus was speaking the truth when he said that he came to save sinners," said the archbishop, who cited the parables of the prodigal son and the lost sheep — and the woman caught in adultery whose accusers were told to stone her — if they were without sin.

Archbishop O'Brien, on his first official visit to the diocese since Mr Wright's exit, prayed for healing for all involved.

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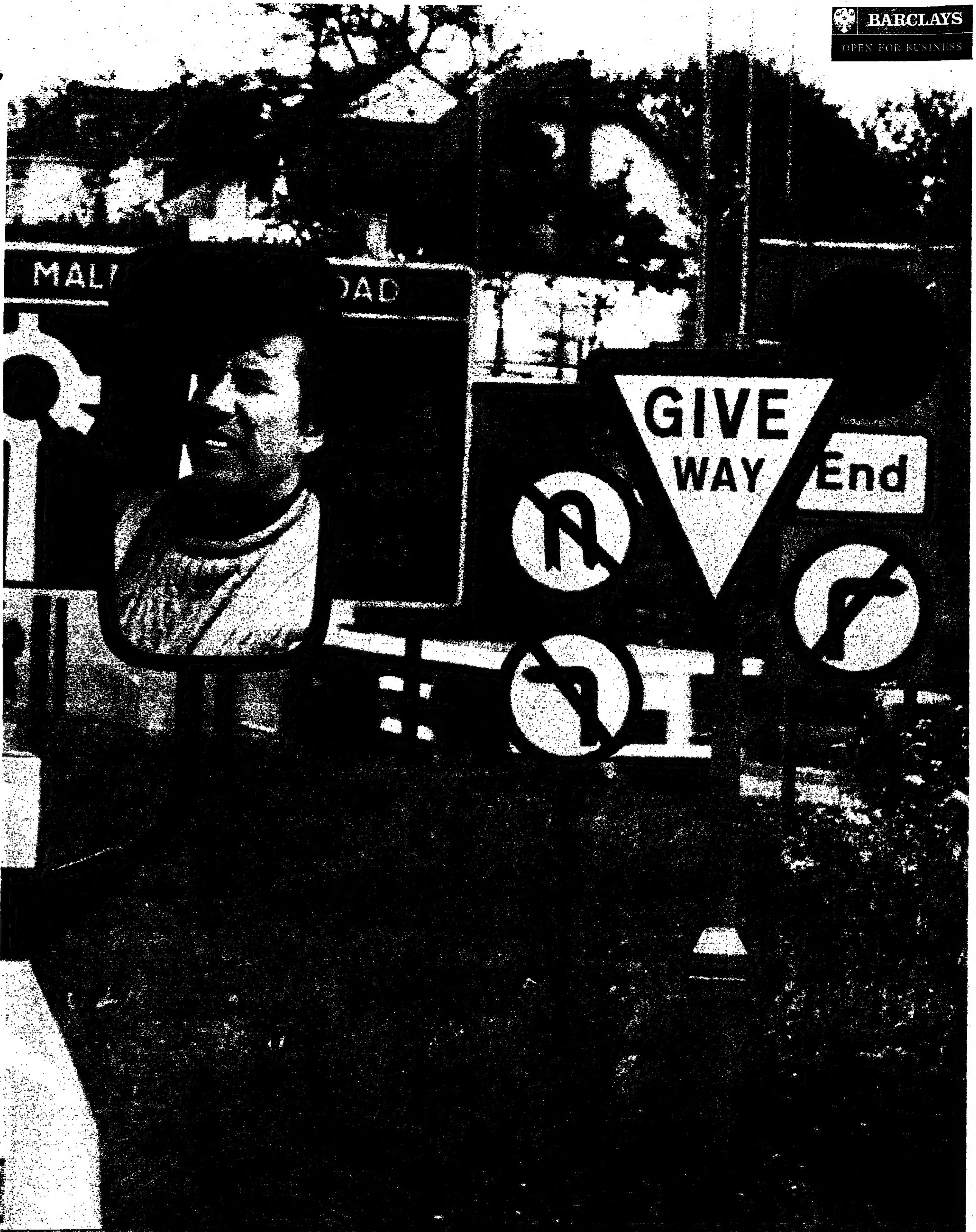
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Duffle coats make way for designer raincoats as delegates don uniform for Blackpool

New model army marches in step with Blair's tune

By James Landale and Alice Thomson

TONY BLAIR'S path will be smoothed this week by a new model army of delegates to the party conference, which opens today.

As they stepped off their trains at Blackpool North station, it was clear that most of them are middle class professionals. The delegates, from constituencies around the country, stood out from the daytrippers. Many were wearing smart suits beneath designer raincoats and were carrying briefcases.

They also stood out from the smattering of old Labour who still wear duffle coats, even the young members. More than eight out of ten delegates that *The Times* talked to were new Labourites drawn into the party by Tony Blair.

Labour is now in exactly the opposite situation to the one it faced in the 1970s and early 1980s when the leadership was forced to rely on the support of moderate trade union leaders to defeat radical motions from extreme constituency activists.

The 150 constituency delegates have become more and more influential as the unions' power has declined. Mr Blair will rely on these new conference-goers to keep the trade unions and old establishment figures such as Baroness Castle of Blackburn under control. The Labour leader is helped by the fact that there are an increasing number of women who are particularly loyal to him.

Also for the first time, constituency delegates will have 50 per cent of the vote at conference, up 20 percentage points from last year. The trade unions' share has been cut from 70 to 50 per cent.

Talking to the delegates as they stood waiting for taxis in the pouring rain, most were entranced by the new Labour rhetoric and see Mr Blair as the greatest hope for the future of the party. They are prepared to accept his autocratic style of leadership as long as he wins the next election.

The Labour hierarchy has left nothing to chance. It has ensured that the delegates have been on a series of training weekends during September. This conference will be the first for 80 per cent of delegates and officials want them to be well-briefed on the party's arcane rules and how to deal with the media.

More than 20 per cent of the delegates became Labour supporters after Tony Blair became leader two years ago and have few links with Labour's



old traditions. Labour now has 100,000 new members and they are the keenest to come and see their leader perform at the conference.

Each constituency can send one delegate for the first 749 members, with an extra delegate for the next 250 members and so on. However, most local parties are financially constrained and cannot afford to send more than one or two delegates.

Conference delegates were traditionally male but now the rules ensure greater female representation. Every second delegate from a local party must be a woman. And if a constituency party sends one male delegate one year, it must send a female delegate the next. This year 320 delegates are men, 425 are women.

Typically, they are in their forties. Many delegates said they found the training days useful. Not only did they find the explanation of how conference works essential, but they now also appreciate how important it is for them not to harm



Williams said majority backed Blair's direction

Labour's chances of winning the next election.

Only a few expressed concern. Andy Howell, president of Labour Reform, the centre-left coalition of party activists, accused the leadership of trying to control delegates.

"They have been inviting them to training weekends, saying it [conference] is not about policy or debate, but about the public image of Labour," he said. "They are being heavily coached in how to behave. There has been some upset about this."

Many delegates appear to have been imbued with a sense of caution and even fear towards the press. After one training course, as a group of activists returned home by train, some new delegates went so far as talking in whispers just in case some journalists were in the same coach.

Yesterday several delegates said they would only speak to *The Times* after they had secured permission from their regional office.

"There is a sense that all this central control is getting a bit silly," one delegate said.

While delegates are clearly keen not to rock the boat, many feel they should not be taken for granted by the leadership. On one of the training days, delegates were shocked when a leading Labour official referred to party supporters and activists as "the sales force".

John Williams, the delegate for Darlington, where he leads the borough council, said that the majority of delegates would back Mr Blair against the unions. "They overwhelmingly support Tony and the way the party is going."

Maureen Casey, 42, the delegate for Burnley, was a keen supporter of Mr Blair. "It is vital to get in power and Tony Blair is our last chance. Blair knows what is needed to win and we have to trust him."

Alex Silver, 19, a delegate from the University of Salford, said that he would not have joined Labour under Neil Kinnock but was a keen supporter of Mr Blair. "The reforms had to be done, however ugly they looked to old Labour."

David Milton, from Taunton, Somerset, said that Labour was going in the right direction now and that was because of Mr Blair. But he added: "There are issues I am prepared to keep silent about if it means we keep party unity."



Moira Hoffman, from Leominster, joined Labour two years ago, inspired by Tony Blair, and is now attending her first party conference

'We want to convert the whole country'

Alice Thomson
Political Reporter

NEW BLAIRITE

IMMACULATE in a tweed suit and beige overcoat with matching luggage, Moira Hoffman, arriving for her first conference, was typical of the new breed of Labour delegate.

Mrs Hoffman, 62, from Leominster, Hereford and Worcester, joined the party two years ago, inspired by Tony Blair's rhetoric. She had always tended to be on the left but had felt excluded by the party's male, "cloth cap" image and thought that Labour had made itself unelectable.

"Tony Blair is inspirational. Before

Labour lacked confidence - now it looks like the party of government, mature and self-assured," she said.

Mrs Hoffman runs a computer business and her husband is a retired teacher. "I don't mind saying I am middle class. My constituency is true blue old Tory, but we are gathering more and more recruits and from the rural areas as well."

"I know we are going to win this election and I am nervously excited. We've got seven months at most to go."

Having taken a week off work to

attend the conference, she is determined to attend as many fringe events in Blackpool as possible. "I don't think there will be time for the big dipper."

She is worried that "old Labour" might try to hijack the conference. "We can't make wild promises without costing it. Old Labour must believe that we still care, and when we get into power we will put policies in place to make sure people are treated fairly and equally. They are suspicious, but this shouldn't be a class thing; we want to convert the whole of the country to our approach."

Mrs Hoffman has been on training weekends for party activists and was

sent a wodge of research to read before the conference. She knows the party line on everything from fishing to car clamping. "We have four challenges before the new millennium. To make Britain better off and safer, to make politicians more accountable and to have more influence abroad. Mr Blair said that on TV and I was so impressed I took it down."

Mrs Hoffman, who hopes she will have a chance to address the conference, and is particularly interested in rural issues, added: "Mr Blair needs two terms if we can redress the disasters of Thatcherism and the culture of me-ism."

'People want commitments — not vague promises'

James Landale
Political Reporter

PARTY VETERAN

HUNDREDS of young new Labourites may be thronging the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, but Dorothy MacEdo is a party veteran.

The fifty-year-old delegate from Finchley and Golders Green, north London, a Labour member for 30 years, has been to the annual conference in several years. While she denies being "old Labour", she does express concern about the direction the party is taking.

"I think we should see some more positive statements on what we are going to do on issues that people care about, such as pensions, the welfare state and education," she said. "At the moment it is all a bit

vague. People don't trust vague promises. They would like more commitments."

Voters wanted more substance from Labour, especially on policies such as taxes, she said. "We are going to have to tell the electorate sooner rather than later," she said. The party leadership would "have to say something. Otherwise the Tories are going to make it up for them."

Pensions are the central issue for Mrs MacEdo. She backs the call by Baroness Castle of Blackburn that Labour commit itself to restoring the link between state pensions and earnings, something fiercely resisted by the

party leadership. "It would be a big vote-winner."

Mrs MacEdo believes that Labour should make its policies clear to the electorate and not just rely on the popularity of the leader to garner votes. "People think Tony Blair is a nice chap but it is not enough," she said.

She said that Labour's "spin-doctors" should not, in their wish to avoid stories in the media about "party splits", be so ready to stifle internal debate. "We all want to win the election. It is just that it should be possible to have a debate on how to do that."

Conference delegates should have their say, she added. "We are all here to be loyal to the party but there is nothing wrong with debate."



Dorothy MacEdo, a party member for 30 years

Parents wooed with ten-hour nurseries

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

ALL-DAY "nursery creches" for every child aged three and four will be pledged by Labour this week to help professional parents to keep their careers.

The party hopes its plan for combined daycare and nursery education centres, covering ten hours a day, will appeal particularly to working mothers. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said that the nursery education would be provided free while the cost of childcare would be means-tested. Every family using the centres would be expected to contribute something to the cost of the childcare element, even if only £5 a week.

Labour has already said that it would scrap the Government's nursery voucher scheme, due to be introduced nationally in April. Mr Blunkett will announce on Wednesday that one-stop nursery creches would be piloted by a Labour government around the country.

Mr Blunkett is also to outline plans for struggling schools to be taken over by their successful neighbours.

Technical wizards ready with new shade of red

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

FOR one brief moment, the vast set in the Winter Gardens ballroom was dominated yesterday by a crucial question flashed onto a large video screen: "What will happen if Labour win the next election?"

The question was left tantalisingly unanswered as technical wizards rehearsed for the conference, but it touched on the key issue that the imposing stage backdrop is intended to address. If the video technicians were unable to flash the answer onto the screen, more pedestrian workers managed to put it into simple clear words on the huge red and grey stage set.

"Labour's pledges," shouted the 40ft high backdrop: "smaller classes, tough on crime, shorter waiting lists, more jobs for the young and a strong economy."

The whole set, and the hundreds of crimson banners that have turned the Winter Gardens complex into an indoor Red Square, are intended to point to the future. At every turn, delegates will be bombarded with the word New.

"New Labour" is coupled on the hundreds of banners

variously conveying other messages of novelty — "New opportunities, New Scotland, New care, New prosperity and New Wales."

In the conference hall itself, party members, nervous about the newness of it all, will be comforted by the familiarity of old Labour Red — lots of it.

According to one poetic interpretation, the massive two-tone set marries the deep red of "vibrant radicalism" with the dove grey hue intended to signify a party that cares for society. To one more pragmatic member of the

design team, "it looks brilliant on television." Red — or more precisely print colour Pantone 186 — covers the bottom half of the set that stretches the entire width of the hall, making it the biggest to dominate a party conference.

In contrast, the tiny platform — with room for only a dozen senior party members — may well be the smallest. Party strategists want the conference to listen to the speaker at the podium and not to be distracted by Kremlin-style ranks of apparatchiks.

The talents of the lighting teams can turn the deep red from the plain lurid to a warm fireside glow, perhaps depending on whether the conference is being addressed by a leftwing firebrand or a modern democratic socialist-social democrat.

Either way, the audience — both inside the hall and in armchairs around the country — is supposed to be soothed by the calming grey upper half of the backdrop, into which the red base merges. "The set will give a warm to the conference," one strategist explained, "and help bring a positive atmosphere to our final gathering before the election."



Lottery move 'stage-managed'

LABOUR has accused the Government of timing an announcement on education funds to upstage its conference.

It had been reported that the Millennium Commission would today announce backing for a £20 million plan for a University of the Highlands, linking colleges. George Rob-

ertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, addressing Scottish delegates in Blackpool yesterday, said: "It beggars belief that an announcement being made on day one of Labour's conference is pure coincidence."

This welcome cash injection from the National Lottery deserves better than being just

another stage-managed ramp for [the Scottish Secretary] Michael Forsyth."

The commission said it was independent of government. "There is no truth in the suggestion that an announcement is being made on Monday just to coincide with the Labour conference."

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Castle rejects pensions compromise

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

BARONESS CASTLE of Blackburn rejected a compromise deal yesterday aimed at preventing a battle over pensions at the party conference.

Lady Castle made it clear that she has no intention of giving up her fight for a £5.5 billion package to boost state pensions. Party and union "fixers" tried to broker a deal before Wednesday's conference vote on the matter, but she refused to accept a proposal negotiated with the help of Jack Jones, former general secretary of the TGWU transport union. "I don't think that will satisfy any of the delegates," she said.

Party sources hope to secure conference backing for a statement from the National Executive Committee that was agreed yesterday morning. It proposes a new commission to look at all pensions, including occupational pensions, in the wider context of care for the elderly.

But the new commission, which will have representatives from pensioners' groups, will not have a remit

Party leadership braced for defeat over restoring link with earnings

to reopen the debate about whether pensions should rise in line with earnings, as Lady Castle has demanded. Yesterday Mr Jones, who has been campaigning with her to boost pensions, indicated that he would accept the compromise but party sources said that Wednesday's vote was still in the balance.

Party officials concede that the leadership may still be defeated on a composite motion pressing for the link with earnings, which was dropped from Labour policy earlier this summer, to be restored. They are pressing for the two constituencies that have put forward the pension motions to avoid a vote by agreeing for the motions to be remitted.

Labour officials point out that Lady Castle's proposals, which would cost

an estimated £3.5 billion in the first year of a Labour government and £5.5 billion in the first Parliament, go much further than most unions want. But many unions are mandated to restore the link with earnings and may have to vote accordingly.

Yesterday Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, and Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, had meetings with Lady Castle to try to persuade her to drop her campaign. But Lady Castle, who is speaking at a Tribune rally tomorrow night, gave no indication that she was prepared to climb down.

Speaking on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, Lady Castle criticised the Labour leadership for "cherry-picking" from the Borrie report on the welfare state commissioned by the

late John Smith. "Little bits of it have been cherry-picked out into a mish-mash of rather vague policy pension statements."

The policy document *New Life, New Britain*, published in July, contained a series of "unspecified pension entitlements" she said. But she made it clear that Gordon Brown was now betraying traditional Labour principles by abandoning the long-standing party policy of restoring the link with earnings. "At the last minute, we are being asked to turn upside down the whole of our traditional policy, which is a state insurance scheme, a contributory one, a compulsory one. That is the betrayal of the welfare state."

Referring to the latest compromise of a pension commission, she accused

the Labour leadership of "running scared" because of the strong support her campaign had gathered. She made clear that her proposals did not amount to a "mad spending spree" but she conceded that party unity could prevail during Wednesday's debate. "If Gordon Brown had not put the frighteners on — about not spending any money — if it wasn't for that the conference would vote overwhelmingly for our proposal."

Mr Brown argued on the same programme that he hoped there would be a meeting of minds, with both sides agreeing the best deal for pensioners that could be afforded. He said he had great respect for Lady Castle but any spending decisions would have to be taken in the light of economic circumstances. "The old-fashioned view was to link pensions in line with prices or earnings, whichever was greater. We will look at this in government but only in the context of a tough approach to public spending."

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21

LABOUR'S CONFERENCE AGENDA

TODAY
30



HEALTH:
Chris Smith, Shadow Health Secretary, will outline NHS plans, promising to transfer £100 million from bureaucracy to frontline care. In stark contrast to Labour's 1992 programme, he will put the case for improving the NHS reforms rather than ditching them.



ECONOMY:
Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, will tread a tightrope on tax and spending, the issues that lost Labour the last election. His reluctance to go into detail risks a backlash from activists who want big spending pledges and a more redistributive tax policy.



UNEMPLOYMENT:
Party leaders face possible defeat on a national minimum wage and employment rights. Unions will demand a £4.26 hourly rate and full rights from first day in a new job. The leadership will insist that the minimum rate will be settled after a Labour victory.



NEC ELECTION:
All eyes will be on whether Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, will manage to keep her seat on the national executive after the controversy over her son's schooling.

TUESDAY
1



FOREIGN AFFAIRS:
Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, will demand that Britain take a lead in Europe but is likely to duck the issue of a single currency. Several motions call on Labour to rule out a single currency in the next Parliament or press for a delay.



WOMEN:
Delegates will seek assurances that Tony Blair is planning new measures to ensure equal representation for women in Parliament. Many activists are worried about his decision to drop the policy of women-only shortlists for selecting parliamentary candidates.



LEADER'S SPEECH:
Tony Blair will call for unity in the run-up to the election and urge support for Labour's modernisation programme for a first Parliament. He will reaffirm that extra education and health spending can be funded only by curbing the welfare state.

WEDNESDAY
2



TRANSPORT:
Andrew Smith, Shadow Transport Secretary, will face calls for a tougher stand on rail privatisation as he tries to shift policy in favour of greater regulation. The new position follows Labour's realisation that it could not afford to renationalise also faces defeat on plans to scrap child benefit for older children.



EDUCATION:
David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, will outline revised policy embracing more selection in state schools plus a graduate tax to fund university education. He will pledge that education will be the first port of call for extra spending.



WELFARE:
Harriet Harman and Barbara Castle will clash over state pensions. Lady Castle will demand that state pensions rise in line with earnings, which Ms Harman will say is unaffordable. The leadership also faces defeat on plans to scrap child benefit for older children.

THURSDAY
3



HOME AFFAIRS:
Jack Straw will call for tough measures to combat crime, and harsher penalties for young offenders. He will defend Labour's devolution plans against motions questioning the party's commitment to a tax-raising Scottish parliament.



MANIFESTO:
Delegates will vote on Labour's entire draft manifesto, which contains the bulk of the party's policy for the next Parliament. Next month 400,000 party members will be balloted on the same document.



GENERAL ELECTION:
John Prescott, deputy party leader, will rally the party for the campaign. The conference will close with a muted rendition of the Red Flag, which has once again been revived, and Auld Lang Syne.

Blair warned of split unless he says no to EMU

By Arthur Leathley and Andrew Pierce

TONY BLAIR was sent a clear warning by his backbenchers yesterday that the Labour Party faces serious divisions unless he rules out Britain's early membership of a single currency.

Labour MPs rounded on the leadership for failing to take a firm stand against monetary union, claiming that Mr Blair would face "the same dilemmas" as John Major over Europe. The party's Euro-sceptics intensified pressure on Mr Blair to state clearly that he would not take Britain into a single currency during the first term of a Labour government.

However, Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, tried to calm the sceptics by reiterating that Labour would not join a single currency without the consent of the voters. He said that the party would seek approval either through a general election or a referendum. "We are the only party that has given the British people a referendum on Europe," he said.

Peter Shore, one of the leading Labour Euro-sceptics, was joined at fringe meetings by a string of left-wing backbenchers in fighting closer links with Europe. Mr Shore told one meeting: "Tony Blair

will face the same harsh realities and dilemmas as John Major and Margaret Thatcher before him."

Alan Simpson, Jeremy Corbyn and Ken Livingstone were among leftwingers who pointed to widespread fears about closer links with Europe. About 50 Euro-sceptic MPs and many trade unionists fear that meeting the economic criteria for entry could result in huge job losses and billions wiped off public spending.

Mr Livingstone, MP for Brent East, told a fringe meeting: "If we join EMU with the commitment of the Maastricht Treaty, you will lock us into a recession and break the Labour government. That will let in the Tories."

Mr Cook, speaking at a fringe meeting of the Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists, said that Labour was absolutely clear that the British people would not be taken into a single currency without their consent. "That is not only right it is recognition of the inevitable," he said.

But he resisted calls to specify, before the election campaign, whether Labour would sign up to a single currency.

Cook stresses his loyalty and urges help for poor

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

ROBIN COOK came forward as the standard-bearer of the Labour Left yesterday as he urged Tony Blair to concentrate help on the poor.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary spoke in favour of tax cuts for the lowest paid and defended Labour's trade union links as he underlined the need to address the plight of "the underdog" while appealing to middle-class voters.

Mr Cook made the move after beginning the day embroiled in a public dispute over his earlier comments that had been interpreted as an attack on Mr Blair.

Mr Cook had reacted furiously to Sunday newspaper reports that suggested that he had criticised the Labour leader for failing to address the issue of poverty.

Mr Cook, the party's policy chief, said in an interview with *The Sunday Times*: "It's very important that as we reach out to these new voters we also remember that the coalition on which we're building a Labour victory includes the dispossessed and those who have had the toughest time under Thatcher."

"There is a very real danger that we're ignoring the needs of a minority in society who find themselves in a very

difficult position, usually through no fault of their own."

However, Mr Cook angrily denied that his comments had been intended as criticism of Mr Blair. He took the unusual step of publishing a transcript of the interview to prove that his remarks were aimed more generally at the media and to prove that he had praised his leader repeatedly.

Mr Cook said that the report carried on the front page, about the interview inside the paper, which sent tremors through Labour ranks as delegates arrived in Blackpool, had been "mis-

chievous and dishonest and wholly unprofessional."

John Witherow, the editor of *The Sunday Times*, said that he stood by the report, adding: "Mr Cook's words speak for themselves. He said that as 'we reach out to' new voters, we should also remember the dispossessed. He was clearly talking about Labour."

The Shadow Foreign Secretary went on during the day to emphasise the importance of protecting the poor. "Of course we must remember the dispossessed... There are people who have done extremely badly out of the last 17 years who desperately need a Labour government... If we have the money we make sure that tax cuts are focused on those who are poorest."

Turning his attention to the party's links with trade unions, Mr Cook moved to dispel suggestions that a Labour government would end the relationship if it faced excessive demands from the union movement. He said that there was no need for a divorce because the two sides were "happily married. The trades unions... provide us with a network of people with whom we share common political objectives — why on earth should we have divorce in these circumstances?"



Cook: angered by newspaper report

Prescott praises his leader's 'vision and courage'

By Jill Sherman



Prescott: backing Blair all the way

JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday gave his backing to Tony Blair's attempts to modernise Labour, claiming that the party leader had "vision, commitment, courage," and could see what had to be done.

The deputy Labour leader admitted that he personally had misgivings about Mr Blair's decision to scrap Clause Four commitment to nationalisation, but said: "He was right on that. In a clear sign that he has decided to put his misgivings about Mr Blair's leadership style behind him — at least in public — he admitted that sometimes he had accused of him of going too fast."

"I've said that over Clause Four but this man had vision, he had commit-

ment, he had courage to have his sight on. Thinking what had to be done, seeing what had to be done. That's what you want in a driver," he said.

"It's called 'leadership' and when people like me, like on Clause Four, say: 'Hang on! I'm a bit of a Doubting Thomas here. I'm concerned about it, I think you've got to have the courage and conviction that say change is ongoing, change is the Labour Party, change is about new Labour.'"

Conducting a fine balancing act Mr Prescott made clear that Labour's new vision combined economic realism with social justice. He refused to be drawn on whether those over £100,000 should be on higher tax rates. While he supported moves by Gordon Brown to close tax loopholes which were now exploited by million-

aires, he said there was no proposal for a 50p tax rate for those on over £100,000.

The most important objective was to get more people into jobs and off welfare benefits — to unlock the potential of the people. "Wealth creation. The Labour Party is as concerned about wealth creation as it is about wealth distribution. Highlighting elements of Mr Blair's speech today, which he helped to draft, he added: "It's about fairness, it's about justice, it's about business, it's about partnership."

He also denied that there were any plans to break the link with the trades unions completely. However, he conceded that there could be further changes which trade union leaders themselves favoured. Questioned on

the row over pensions, he made clear that he had backed the policy for bigger state pensions in 1992 but he realised the money was no longer available. "We have to face the reality of resources here, about what money is available. The argument will take place on the conference floor against all these priorities that we are putting up to the electorate. We are within months of the election and we have to balance what we'll promise against what we'll be able to find from those public finances."

What I am trying to say to you at the moment, is not that I think that pensioners should not have a right to be sharing in the prosperity of the country. What I am saying is that our priority is to make sure the prosperity of the country can now increase."

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Bar Conference: Opposition sets out policies on funding and judicial appointments

Labour promises to bear down hard on legal aid costs

REPORTS BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would "bear down hard" on legal aid costs, tackling the 1 per cent of big cases that consumed more than £100 million — almost half — of the criminal legal aid budget, the Shadow Lord Chancellor told the Bar Conference yesterday.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, added that he regarded the Government's White Paper on legal aid as a "dead letter". Its proposed test of "deservingness" was "unworkable" although Labour wanted to strengthen the merits test to ensure the right cases qualified for legal aid.

Denial for the first time Labour's policy on lawyers and the courts, Lord Irvine told the conference, sponsored by Allied Dunbar and The Times, that lawyers could expect no more money under Labour. There would be no exemption from its policy of prudent public finance.

He also urged action to tackle the low public esteem for the law. There must be a new "co-operative endeavour" to raise the public standing of the law and restore legal aid to the status of a public social service.

He called for further re-

LAW REFORMS

forms to the way judges were appointed, including advertising of High Court posts, more involvement of lay people in the selection process and the creation of an advisory Judicial Appointments Commission. And he sounded a note of caution over the civil justice reforms proposed by Lord Woolf, the Lord Chief Justice, saying lack of funds could put the Government in confrontation with the judiciary.

Lord Irvine said that "the

tabloid-influenced public" saw costs differently from lawyers who made most of their money from legal aid cases. "And when they read about super silks in the private sector who are alleged to earn more than £1 million per annum, that feeds into a belief that all lawyers are fat cats, although some are fatter than others."

He added: "When the Bar complains that a QC will be paid a flat rate fee of £150 for an hour in court and £450 for half a day, with a junior at half these rates, the majority of the public thinks these sums are wealth untold."

They did not know about the Bar's overheads or preparation for court work. Nor was the reputation of the law enhanced when legal aid was granted for long and complex cases and to those whose lifestyles showed they should not have it, he said.

He promised to review plans for legal aid block contracts with solicitors, for standard or fixed fees for civil cases, which the Government had proposed "without prior negotiation".

Lord Irvine backed the aims of Lord Woolf's proposed re-



Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, said lawyers could expect no more money under Labour



Penry-Davey welcomed speech as "positive"

forms to cut costs and delays but he gave warning that these had "serious resource implications". The plans, which envisage a "major shift in the balance of power from the lawyers to the judges" as trial managers, could not be delivered without extra resources.

He also expressed reservations about judges being too interventionist in managing trials. "I see a potentiality for conflict arising out of time limits for trial and cross-examination."

Homosexual partnerships should specifically not be a

block to judicial appointment. Lord Irvine said. Candidates should be told that they are not obliged to disclose sexual orientation or cohabitation with a partner of the same sex.

Besides proposing a new Judicial Appointments Commission with a strong lay element, Lord Irvine welcomed the open competition and advertising of circuit judge posts and below. But that should be extended to the High Court, he said.

"I do not believe that the present system of appointment guarantees that all de-

serving candidates will be identified and considered."

The hour-long address was warmly received by the 500 barristers, who support almost all of Labour's proposed justice policy, in sharp contrast to the hostility generated by the Lord Chancellor's plans for legal aid.

Some described the speech as "more conservative" than Lord Mackay of Clashfern's policies. But others saw it as a skilful blend that built on the best of current government reforms in, for instance, judicial appointments, while tak-

ing on board the profession's concern over proposals for legal aid.

David Penry-Davey, QC, the Bar chairman, welcomed the speech as "extremely positive", singling out for concern only Lord Irvine's plans to reduce criminal legal aid fees. It was important that fees were fair and "transparent", he said. But it was equally important that people were properly defended. "It is a myth to suppose that barristers or solicitors simply ask for huge sums and get them," he said.

BRIEFING

Students need help to afford training

Measures to stop the Bar becoming a preserve of the rich were called for at the weekend.

The plight of young people without funding seeking to become barristers was highlighted by Cherie Booth, QC, vice-chair of this year's Bar conference. She had, she said, "entered the Bar 20 years ago, a young woman with no money and no connections; what chance do you think a similarly placed young woman would have today?"

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, agreed that although the Bar had become "less middle-class dominated", the situation was now "going into reverse".

Ms Booth had been able to obtain a local authority discretionary award to pay for her professional training, Lord Irvine said. Now councils were so "strapped for cash" that they did not provide them. "We have got to look at the whole system of discretionary awards for all the professions."

Bar may get female head

The prospect of the first woman to lead the Bar emerged with the decision of Heather Hallett, QC, leader of the South Eastern Circuit, to throw her hat in the ring for next month's elections for the post of vice-chair. Ms Hallett, a recorder, will contest the seat with Douglas Day, QC, also a recorder and deputy High Court judge.

Ms Hallett, a popular member of the Bar Council who has chaired the Bar's public affairs committee, can expect the support of the circuits. Mr Day, well known in the criminal and commercial field, is likely to win the support of the Criminal Bar Association. He is currently vice-chairman of the Bar Council's legal services committee.

Whoever wins the post of vice-chair in the poll of the 90-strong Bar Council would be likely to succeed to the post of chair in 1998.

£60,000 for new post

The Bar is advertising for a non-lawyer to head its new complaints system, with a salary of £60,000 a year. The complaints commissioner will oversee the investigation of complaints against barristers under the new system, which for the first time will enable people to complain about shoddy work by members of the profession.

David Penry-Davey, QC, Bar chairman, said that the commissioner would be the "cornerstone of what we believe will be a substantially improved system of dealing with grievances against barristers, which we believe will prove quicker, cheaper and just".

Fixed fees attacked

The Government's plans to bring in fixed legal aid fees for lawyers doing civil cases were attacked by the Bar chairman as "disastrous".

Signalling a campaign of Bar opposition to the plans, David Penry-Davey, QC, said the Lord Chancellor had flown in the face of advice from his own management consultants. "These proposals are unfair, contrary to the Government's own consultants' conclusions, and totally unacceptable," he told the conference.

"We will put alternative proposals to Government which will be fair, workable and facilitate rather than destroy access to civil justice."

Conditions in regions 'third rate'

JUDGES trying important civil disputes in the regions are forced to use "seedy" court buildings with no facilities and to stay in third-rate government-approved hotels, a High Court judge told the conference.

Judge Weeks, QC, who sits as a Chancery and mercantile judge in Bristol, said there needed to be more full-time High Court judges to try civil work in the regions and better support facilities.

The present poor conditions resulted in a "disaffected judiciary and great difficulties in recruitment", he said. When High Court judges travelled to the regions, they mainly dealt with criminal cases and not civil work.

"The vast bulk of the High Court civil work outside London is done by circuit judges who sit full time as High Court

POOR FACILITIES

judges for 70 per cent of the pay," he added. "They have no clerical or other assistance and if they want to type a judgment or write a letter they have to do it themselves."

"When they are away from home, they stay in third-rate government-approved hotels on an allowance which is less than that given to a JP."

As a result, he said, solicitors and litigants felt that they were getting a second-class service, while paying High Court fees.

He said that when new courts were built, they tended to be used for criminal work. "If you steal a Mars bar in the West Country, you are tried in the Bristol Palais

de Justice, with every modern facility. If you are seeking an administration order for a company with a turnover of £50 million, you do it in a decaying 19th-century building with no proper heating, no conference room and one public telephone shared with battered wives and their offspring." He called for the merging of the Chancery and mercantile courts because the distinction made "no sense" in Bristol.

At least three High Court judges were needed to sit full time in the North and two outside London in the South, he said. There also needed to be to be more support for judges. "I have no personal clerk, computer or word processor and this document is typed only by the courtesy of a High Court judge's clerk," he said.

Scrap Latin to make law more friendly, says judge

A HIGH COURT judge has called for the "traditional trappings" of the law — including Latin tags and legalese — to be scrapped to show that the legal system serves the public.

Mr Justice Parker told the conference that the civil justice system must not only work efficiently and effectively, it must "be seen to do so". "Its traditional trappings must not be allowed to obscure the public's view of the way it works and the service it provides," he said.

He added: "Too many people, the civil justice system remains a mysterious creature, born of the Dark Ages, ponderous of movement, slow of reaction, emitting unearthly and incomprehensible sounds as it crushes hapless litigants beneath its feet."

He cited some of its anomalies: High Court judges went out on circuit, circuit judges did not. High Court judges were knights or dames but

LEGALESE

appreciation of the convenience of litigants, he said. "The need is to demonstrate more clearly that the system exists for the benefit not of the lawyers but of the public."

The judge, who is responsible for the work of the Chancery courts in the North of England, criticised other aspects of the civil justice system that served only to confuse people.

He added: "Too many people, the civil justice system remains a mysterious creature, born of the Dark Ages, ponderous of movement, slow of reaction, emitting unearthly and incomprehensible sounds as it crushes hapless litigants beneath its feet."

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Act 'will allow prosecution to withhold vital evidence'

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW Government laws will enable the prosecution to withhold evidence that could be important to the defence case and lead to miscarriages of justice, a senior Queen's Counsel has said.

Roy Amlot, QC, who as Treasury counsel from 1974 to 1989 prosecuted all the most serious cases for the Crown, told lawyers at the conference that the new law had tipped the balance on disclosure of evidence heavily in favour of the prosecution.

The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 enabled the prosecution to decide what material to disclose, and put lawyers back in the position they were in before the Attorney-General issued guidelines on disclosure in 1981.

The Act was passed with minimum opposition from either side of the Commons. Mr Amlot said he was "very concerned" about the likely impact of the new law after progress over the years had been made through court rulings requiring the prosecution to disclose all material.

Because the police carried out the investigation of crime and were first on the scene, there should always be "a heavy onus on the prosecution to share the fruits of its investigation with the defence," he said. In turn, there should always be a culture among police and prosecution which assumed that any material which might be relevant should be disclosed.

But the new Act enabled the prosecution, in effect, to decide what to disclose. It need not disclose anything that would not undermine its case; nor anything that was not essential to the defence.

DISCLOSURE

It had to produce a list of material, but this could be in general terms. "The judgment of what undermines the prosecution case or assists the defence remains at all times with the prosecutor," he said.

He added, was that a culture of "non-disclosure" would set in.



Barbara Mills backed the new legislation

Barbara Mills, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, who supported the new legislation, said that the Crown Prosecution Service was carrying out a large training programme so that the "culture of disclosure" would continue.

A leading forensic scientist warned that the field of forensic science was unregulated with many "dubious" scientists offering their services to defence lawyers. Dr Angela Gallop, a partner with Forensic Access, said that defence lawyers were at a severe "forensic" disadvantage when faced with the prosecution in criminal cases.

She attacked the Forensic Science Service, which became

an agency in 1991, as "drowning in a sea of its own making, blindly pursuing each new management fad as it is dreamed up and forgetting what it is that it is supposed to be doing."

At present, forensic science was unregulated and "this amounts to a charter for charlatans and incompetents," she said. One laboratory produced what appeared to be "unassailable evidence" of a link between the defendant and some clothing, she said. On investigating their procedures, she found the scientist could have produced all the evidence he claimed to have found. "In short, his work was so deeply flawed that the best thing to do was to forget all about it," she said.

There was no system of accreditation and any "Tom, Dick or Harriet with only minimal scientific training but sufficient brass can set themselves up in business as forensic scientists," she added.

Although making the Forensic Science Service an agency gave the defence lawyers equal access to its experts, she questioned whether the defence lawyers received as good a service, as the agency's primary responsibility was to the police.

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Afghanis wary as new invaders impose Sharia

THE veil is descending once more on Kabul, the broken capital of what is left of Afghanistan. Taliban invaders have imposed the strictest interpretation of Sharia (Islamic law), under which thieves will have a hand amputated and adulterers stoned or lashed to death.

An accused thief was paraded through the city yesterday, tied to the back of a lorry with banknotes stuffed into his ears and mouth. A heavy weight was strapped to his jaw. Announcements from a loud-speaker proclaimed this to be a warning to other thieves. It was public torture: a barbaric demonstration of the kind of society Taliban has started to impose.

Women have been ordered into purdah: there were few of them on the streets yesterday, and they were covered head to toe in the *burqa* — most in black. Kabul is traditionally a liberal city and the ultra-conservative new rules will come hard.

Girls' schools have been closed and women with jobs have been told they must resign and stay at home. That will mean a crisis for Kabul's 40,000 war widows, most of whom are already in poverty



Christopher Thomas writes from Kabul that despite shows of barbarity, Taliban is treating citizens impeccably.

from bringing up children alone. For 2,000 years Kabul, cursed by its location, has been invaded. But no invader has acted more strangely than Taliban, a holy army whose integrity to its hardline beliefs is indisputable.

Its impeccable behaviour with the general population since occupying Kabul on Thursday is in startling contrast to the tradition of Pashtun plunder. For all its philosophical extremism, Taliban is mostly welcomed for bringing a rare taste of law and order.

Last night, after a brief exchange of artillery fire, the Taliban overran the Parwan provincial capital of Charikar. As news of the fall of another city reached Kabul, its one million people started worrying about Taliban's viciousness. The bodies of Muhammad Najibullah, the former President who led a Russian-backed Government, and his

brother Ahmadzai, were cut down yesterday from outside the presidential palace, where they had hung by the neck since being killed last week. Ahmadzai, in his twenties, had arrived from his home in Germany only last week, and was trapped by the sudden Taliban advance.

Najibullah's wife, Fatana, and their three daughters arrived in Kabul aboard an International Committee of the Red Cross flight from the Pakistani border city of Peshawar. Taliban assured them of safe passage. The family are guests of the Indian Government in Delhi, and live in an expensive section of the city.

Taliban's victory puts Kabul firmly back into the hands of the Pashtuns, the majority ethnic group of Afghanistan, and the traditional rulers of Kabul. Taliban — the name means "student" — emerged from *madrasas* (Islamic schools) in Afghan refugee



Men enjoy renewed calm on the streets of Kabul at the weekend after Taliban ordered women to resign from their jobs and stay at home

campes in Pakistan in 1994 and soon began its stunning military advance. Its religious mystique gives it a peculiar hold over the population. "Shooting a Taliban soldier is like a Catholic shooting a priest," a Western aid worker said. Pakistan — which denies

helping to create Taliban, although it undoubtedly played a role — is quietly delighted at the turn of events. Friendly relations with a more stable Afghanistan would enable it to realise an old dream of opening trade routes to Central Asia. That may be a

premature hope. General Dostum, the powerful Uzbek warlord who controls the north, is rumoured to be talking to leaders of the ousted Government about a military alliance. Taliban hates him as a former army commander in the Najibullah's Communist Gov-

ernment. There seems scant chance that Afghanistan will find peace.

The leaders of the deposed regime are in hiding in the northeast. Burhanuddin Rabbani, the ousted President, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Prime Minister, and Ahmad

Shah Masood, the defence chief, have been sentenced to death by Taliban. Pakistan wants nothing more to do with them, and will not readily offer sanctuary. Taliban fighters headed north to find them.

Letters, page 21

Taliban offers Kabul glimpse of stability

By LAWRENCE FRIEDMAN

ANY regime which publicly hangs the body of a former president and imposes stern Islamic law is likely to ring international alarm bells, yet the seizure of Kabul by the Taliban militia is also being greeted with some relief as it provides the best hope of ending almost two decades of war.

From December 1979, when Soviet troops entered Afghanistan to prop up a failing Marxist regime, to their departure a decade later, the conflict was understood in largely global terms as part of the Cold War. There was some surprise when the Soviet withdrawal did not result in peace.

Not for the first time America had been over-impressed by "my enemy's enemy is my friend" type arguments. It had armed the Mujahidin rebels to embarrass Moscow, and was then distressed when the rebel groups began to fight among themselves, with some inclined to Iranian-style radical Islamic positions. The deadly equipment — such as Stinger anti-aircraft missiles — sent to defeat Soviet forces was now finding its way to a variety of militant groups.

The disarray among the Mujahidin allowed the former Communists to cling to power — until they were left isolated when the Soviet

Union collapsed. Then attempts by the United Nations to mediate to produce a coalition government foundered on the rivalries between different groups reflecting the country's complex ethnic divisions.

Bordering countries confused matters further by supporting groups according to their own interests. Because of this, it was assumed until recently that Afghanistan was

6 Pakistan is well placed to benefit from the Taliban militia's success

doomed to a bloody stalemate, with external backers doing enough to prevent their side being defeated.

Taliban is a relative newcomer. The militia made its appearance two years ago. Initial military successes reflected a potent combination of youthful commitment and spiritual energy, backed by Pakistani merchants who were anxious to reopen their traditional trade — and smuggling — routes to Central Asia.

Success brought Taliban financial rewards, and led to much more direct support from the Pakistani Government, including military training. With Pakistan the main beneficiary of Taliban's breakthrough, the other regional powers must work out how to respond. Iran — increasingly marginalised in the struggle for Kabul — appears ready to reach some accommodation. India is inevitably suspicious.

Russia and the Central Asia republics still have their own battles with fundamentalist Islam. They must decide whether to support the militias based on the Uzbeks and the Tajiks — who will be less than happy with the return of a Pashtun-dominated Government. The Tajiks provided much of the government army that collapsed in the face of the Taliban assault last week. The more secular-minded people of Kabul provide another potential source of opposition, for they find strict Islamic code both unpalatable and impractical. For the moment, Taliban can build on a popular hope that a stable Government might at last be in place. The more it seeks to impose an uncompromising theocracy, the greater the risk of a return to instability.

Women protest at Islamic ruling

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

HUNDREDS of angry Pakistani women yesterday demonstrated outside the Punjab High Court in Lahore against a recent ruling which stops women marrying without the consent of their guardians.

The protest was organised by Women's Action Forum, a rights group, and attracted support from women lawyers, writers, artists and journalists. "The judgment is unacceptable as it is in violation of the constitution which guarantees equal rights to all citizens," said Hina Jilani, leader of the forum.

About 100 yards away, 50 women wearing veils held a counter-demonstration in support of the judgment.

Justice Abdul Hafeez

Cheema last week declared void the marriages of two young women who wed men of their choice against the wishes of their fathers. The judgment was handed down on petitions filed separately by the women who have been charged under Islamic law, along with their husbands, with fornication. Ayesha Ijaz, 14, and Shabina Zafar, 19, married after running away from home.

Quoting from the Koran and Sharia, Mr Justice Cheema declared: "No marriage except the marriages of Muhammad is valid without the permission of the guardians of the women." He said that even divorcees and widows had to seek permission

from their guardian to marry.

The judgment has provoked a strong reaction from progressive groups, who see it as giving legitimacy to fundamentalists. "The judgment has taken away the basic rights of women to decide about their lives," Miss Jilani said.

Jugnu Mohsin, editor of the weekly *Friday Times*, said: "It is the most ridiculous judgment which will leave women at the mercy of their guardians. The judgment represents obscure thinking which considers women nothing more than chattels."

Women activists have called on the Pakistan judiciary to reverse the judgment. The majority of Pakistani women,

particularly those living in rural areas, have no say in the choice of their spouses and are bound to marry according to the wishes of their parents. But in the more developed urban areas, educated women increasingly marry men of their choice, despite Islamic laws imposed under the late General Zia ul-Haq in the 1980s.

□ Kuwait: Eight days before Kuwait's men-only elections, hundreds of lawyers, doctors, artists and other prominent women demonstrated yesterday for the right to vote. Women across the emirate staged a one-hour strike to drive home the point. (AP)

Letters, page 21

Sri Lanka retakes Tiger town

Colombo: Sri Lankan forces yesterday captured the Tamil Tigers' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi, the last large town under rebel control.

A military spokesman said the troops, who launched an offensive a week ago from Paranthan, encircled and then moved into the town after fierce rebel resistance. "Clearing operations are in progress and the troops are consolidating in Kilinochchi," he added. (Reuters)

Burma stops activist talks

Rangoon: The Burmese Government accused the opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other democracy leaders of breaking laws and instigating unrest, and maintained military checkpoints around the Nobel Peace prizewinner's house to prevent a weekend meeting of activists there. (Reuters)

Crime at one's fingertips

New York: Bernardo Reyes, 30, a suspected drug dealer arrested in Allentown, Pennsylvania carrying nearly 300 packets of heroin, chewed the skin off his fingertips while he was awaiting questioning in an apparent attempt to prevent police taking his fingerprints.

Armenian poll win confirmed

Yerevan: Final results confirmed President Levon Ter-Petrosyan the victor in Armenian elections, with 51.75 per cent of the vote. Vazgen Manukyan came second with 41.29 per cent, while Sergei Badalyan, a Communist, was third with 6.34 per cent. (Reuters)

Muslims back to the future

Sarajevo: Muslim-controlled parts of Bosnia put clocks back an hour by government decree — then put them forward again to match the rest of country when officials realised they had ended summer time a month early. (Reuters)

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Mixed messages reveal colony's fear for future

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE statements last week in Hong Kong by two top officials reveal the contrasts in character underlying the colony's anguish as the 1997 handover to China draws near. The officials are Sir Ti Liang Yang, the Chief Justice, and Anson Chan, Chief Secretary and Deputy Governor. Each is the first Chinese in those posts.

Sir Ti Liang, who recently declared himself a candidate for Hong Kong's first Chief Executive appointed by China, said last week that he was prepared to give up his knighthood after he resigns his office in November. This is a move calculated to please China. Honours and gongs are no longer in vogue here.

"He can send his badge back to the palace, and they'll quietly put it in a drawer somewhere, and just as quietly go on regarding him as a knight," V.L. Warrington, chief of protocol at Government House, said.

Last November it emerged that at a dinner attended by one of Peking's officials here, the Chief Justice said that Hong Kong's Bill of Rights damaged the legal system. Soon it emerged that he had also told Peking of his opinion.

A chorus of protests arose from the Bar: Sir Ti Liang had said publicly that he disapproved of laws which he had to administer and which pro-



Sir Ti Liang: willing to give up knighthood

tested freedom of speech, assembly, and publication.

The Government's chief legal officers repudiated the Chief Justice's view and he was called upon by Ms Chan to explain himself, which he did, lamely. Chris Patten, the Governor, banged the table in the Legislative Council and insisted: "The council makes laws and the judiciary carries them out."

But Peking, which despises Hong Kong's Bill of Rights and has vowed to dismember it in 1997, expressed pleasure.

Contrast this with Ms Chan, the Chief Secretary. On the same day that Sir Ti Liang said he was ready to renounce his knighthood, she spoke in support of the Bill of Rights while visiting Australia. Ms

Chan — who is Hong Kong's popular favourite to become Chief Justice, but never will be — has to defend daily the city's integrity and liberty without making it impossible for her to continue in government after 1997.

"We have enacted a Bill of Rights ordinance," she said, "and have over the years made sure that all our laws are fully consistent with the Bill of Rights... that guarantees human rights and human freedom."

Ms Chan said something else as well, which in the short term will make her enemies here, especially after a Hong Kong man drowned leading a protest voyage to what she referred more than once as the Senkaku Islands. This is the Japanese name for the uninhabited cluster in the East China Sea, occupied by Japan but claimed by China, which calls them the Diaoyu Islands.

So does everyone in Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, where thousands have demonstrated against Japanese "imperialism". Ms Chan is Chinese to her fingertips, but the islands are deemed internationally to be Japanese, so she doggedly says Senkaku.

Ms Chan will probably continue to be favoured for Chief Executive by most Hong Kong people, while Sir Ti Liang, or plain Mr Yang, will secure few supporters here.

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Single-currency opponents can make mischief for beleaguered Kohl

The political game in Europe is changing, and the next fortnight of party conferences will show if British politicians have woken up to the fact. Like failed military leaders, many politicians get stuck fighting the last war and fail to see the next one coming.

When John Major and his fellow European Union leaders sit down in Dublin this Saturday, they will debate second-order subjects: timorous, technocratic schemes for beefing up the Maastricht treaty. But all the same, fringe meetings and conference halls in Blackpool and



later Brighton will echo to the rattle of rhetorical gunfire from the well-dug trenches on each side of the sovereignty debate. Mr Major will swear to resist any transfer of power

to Brussels, but duck and weave to avoid ruling out the single currency. Tony Blair will mix a little more flexibility into his soundbites, but try to leave the clear impression that the national interest will be safe in his hands.

That was the last battle strategy and tactics now change. The only game in town for British politicians is to decide whether they work towards Britain joining the single currency or exploit whatever opportunities occur to derail the whole enterprise.

If the large and ill-assorted coalition that fears that the single currency will damage

all of Europe follows the logic of its convictions, its members should be making mischief for Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France as they struggle towards 1998.

In that crowded year, both Germany and France are to hold general elections and EU leaders will sit down, probably under Mr Blair's chairmanship, to vote on who joins the single currency.

The challenge lies in designing subtle sabotage. A few days spent in Germany convinced me that, while Herr Kohl may manage to

win over the majority of German public opinion still opposed to monetary union, he hasn't got it in the bag. The mood is oddly fatalistic. Germans have almost become reluctant to discuss the single currency, as if unwilling to admit that the project is brittle and elitist while at the same time confessing that they are powerless to stop it.

Herr Kohl has already repulsed an assault from the Bavarian Right on the euro; he now faces one from the Left. *Bluten für den euro* (Bleeding for the euro) said the headline in the left-of-centre *Die Woche*. Gerhard

Schroeder, a leading German Social Democrat, last week openly hinted that he would like British politicians to try to stop monetary union at the last moment by blocking attempts to bend the qualification rules. Without ruling on a big scale, the euro won't be born.

John Redwood may be urging Mr Major to try this tactic, but he will find it hard to pose as the man who insists that the EU sticks to the letter of Maastricht. That is exactly what Mr Blair, Robin Cook and Gordon Brown should do. Nothing could be more subversive or

more unimpeachably European than to argue that any single currency must be launched and run properly.

When he talks about the Maastricht deficit rule, Mr Brown should always be careful to say that 3 per cent means 3 per cent, not 3.1 per cent, not 3.2. Such a tack might land the Shadow Chancellor in some unaccustomed company, but European issues would add alliances.

Mr Brown's stock with Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, and the Bundesbank would rise.

Most importantly, a British campaign insisting that the treaty criteria be observed in spirit and letter would be deeply embarrassing for Herr Kohl, who hopes that everybody will look the other way when the time comes to massage the figures. He could hardly complain about a British Labour Party preaching good behaviour.

And making the German Chancellor look lax might increase the odds that ordinary Germans will tell their leaders that Europe is not ready for monetary union.

GEORGE BROCK

Sense of disaster steals over Dole's flagging campaign

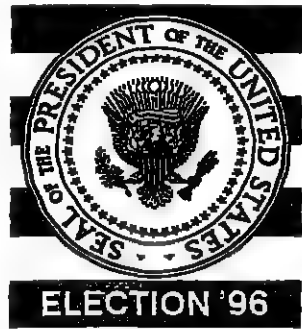
FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

AS BOB DOLE'S plane approached Detroit, thick black smoke billowed from a fire on the airfield's perimeter and fire engines rushed to douse the flames. It turned out to be a "disaster-training drill", prompting inevitable quips about Motown preparing for a candidate whose campaign is going up in smoke.

A day on the trail with Mr Dole shows his \$100 million (£84 million) campaign really is a developing disaster. It has all the trappings of a serious White House bid — planes, motorcades and police escorts — but lacks passion, purpose or any sense of urgency.

With just five weeks left Mr Dole, 73, trails far behind President Clinton but this was his first extended trip outside the capital in four days and even then he did not arrive at Washington's National Airport until 9.30am.

Mr Dole, his aides and a few favoured journalists boarded his plane, a 727 named the Citizen's Ship. The rest of his substantial media entourage flies on a second 727 they have dubbed the Bullship. After weeks trailing the Republican nominee



round the country they are a frustrated lot. He makes little news, seldom gives interviews and rarely even chats to them. The reporters joke that Mr Clinton will go anywhere and say anything while Mr Dole goes nowhere and says nothing.

The Detroit *Free Press* greets Mr Dole with a poll showing him 19 points behind in Michigan. He is addressing Detroit's prestigious Economic Club, and again plugs his plan for massive tax cuts and labels the President an "old-style, dyed-in-the-wool, big-spending liberal". The hour-long speech inspires nobody. Its themes are tired echoes of the 1980s. After a few carefully

screened questions the audience of 2,000 makes for the doors.

Even among these hardcore Republicans there is minimal enthusiasm for the Dole economic plan. John Smith, chairman of General Motors, says he wants deficit reduction. Nancy Dedenbach, a Republican councillor, calls the plan a non-starter and her party's candidate a loser.

Mr Dole flies on to Ohio, a state without which no Republican has ever won the White House. Here he trails by nine points. His venue is Shelby, a rural town of 9,000 where his arrival causes real excitement if only because no presidential candidate has ever visited before. Unfortunately most of the town is barred, as the event is invitation only.

This is one of the "listening to America" forums Mr Dole conducts with friendly hand-picked audiences around the country — though the time for listening has surely passed. Afterwards Michael Farley, 18, a Young Republican, complains: "They didn't give us a candidate."

Over dinner seasoned Dole-watchers doubt he swayed, or even met, one uncommitted voter that day. They compare his astonishingly light schedule with the President's frequent dawn-to-midnight out-ings. They lament Mr Dole's lightweight team, and one distinguished Washington bureau chief deems it the worst campaign since Barry Goldwater's in 1964.

What baffles them is Mr Dole's cheerfulness as his long political career draws to such a sorry end. He even jokes about it. He recently quipped that as head of the American Red Cross his wife Elizabeth visited many disaster areas — "not including my campaign".

US approves Africa force

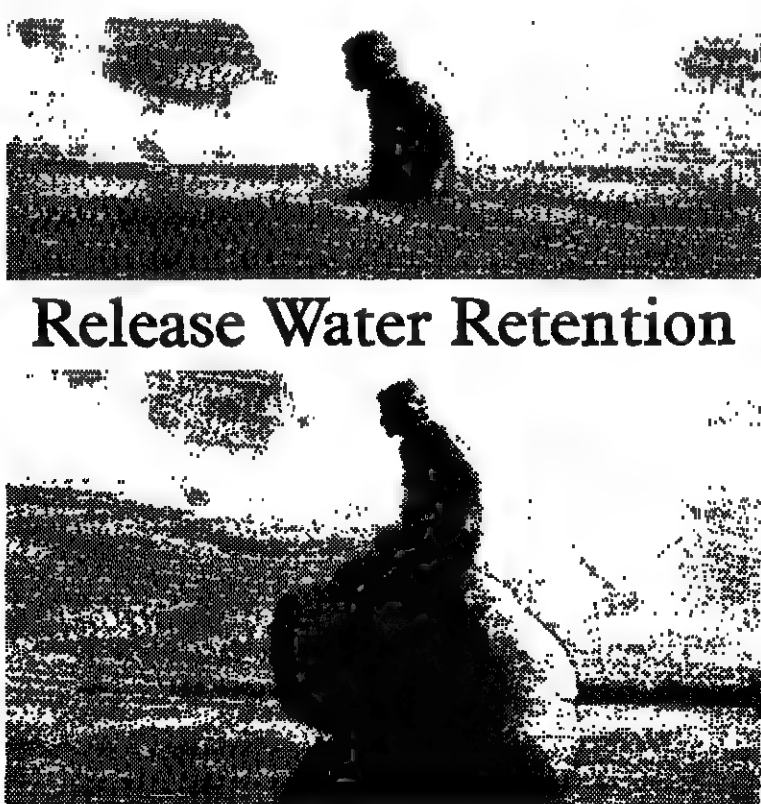
FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

THE Clinton Administration has approved plans to set up and pay for a standing army of African soldiers to intervene to protect civilians threatened by the collapse of the continent's nation states.

State Department officials say the African Crisis Response Force would be partly funded, trained and equipped by the US and European countries.

Long mooted by US officials, the force of around 10,000 men would be kept on standby and deployed where civilian casualties were expected to be high.

The cost of maintaining such a force is estimated at about \$25 million (£16 million) a year, and \$40 million when it is required to be operational. It would not be allowed to take sides, but would set up safe areas where civilians could be protected.



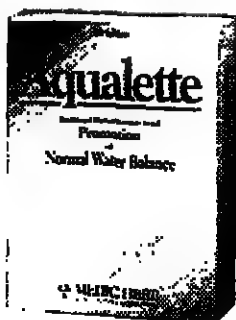
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A boy on rollerblades adds to a pyramid of shoes piled up at the Place du Trocadéro in Paris to symbolise people who have lost limbs to landmines throughout the world (Ben Macintyre writes). Similar protests

A symbol of protest

organised by the French group, Handicap International, were also held in Lyons and Ottawa, Canada, which is to host an international conference on mines, starting on Thursday. The "shoe-lens" were held to draw attention to the threat posed by anti-personnel mines that

have killed or mutilated more than 600,000 civilians in the past 20 years. According to Handicap International, which makes artificial limbs, 110 million such mines are buried in more than 70 countries.

Lebed urges Yeltsin to stand down

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ALEXSANDR LEBED, the Russian security chief, stirred up a new controversy over the weekend, telling a Moscow newspaper that President Yeltsin should step down from office while he is in hospital.

view published yesterday that Mr Yeltsin should step down while he is unable to work at full capacity because of his forthcoming heart operation.

General Lebed's fears were echoed by Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, who gave a warning that Russia could face Brezhnev-style stagnation unless a healthy leader occupies the Kremlin. In an interview in Moscow with *The Times*, Mr Gorbachev said that his rival

was physically not up to the responsibilities of state.

General Lebed said Russia was now in an "unclear situation", with the President effectively out of action but still formally in control.

General Lebed himself has not met Mr Yeltsin for several weeks and has hinted that the leader is being manipulated by his aides. If Mr Yeltsin did not step down, he said, "a dangerous precedent is created when it is possible to rule

the country in the name of the President. I absolutely cannot accept that."

Mr Gorbachev said: "We lost at least 10 valuable years because of leaders who were 25, 30 and sometimes 100 per cent out of action. Today the situation is even more serious because all power in Russia is concentrated in the hands of the President. When I look at [Yeltsin] now I immediately see Brezhnev and Chernenko all over again."

Anastole Kaletsky, page 48

French intellectuals in two minds over list of great thinkers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE publication of the 1,300-page *Dictionary of French Intellectuals* in France this Thursday, has rekindled a long-running debate over precisely who merits this most coveted and indefinable of titles.

The dictionary, a guide to the great Gallic minds of the past century, is the work of historians Jacques Julliard and Michel Winock. With a team of more than 100 contributors, they have compiled a *Who's Who* of the French intellectual firmament beginning with the writer Raymond Abellio and ending with the journalist and novelist Emile Zola.

Intellectual organisations, such as the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) and *Le Monde* newspaper, are also included in the dictionary's 800 entries, as are intellectually important events such as the Dreyfus affair in 1894 when the word *intellectual* gained currency.

The authors define an intellectual as "a man or woman who brings to the political system a notoriety acquired elsewhere", but their list has inevitably provoked disagreement among the French chattering classes.

Writers and thinkers such as Jean-Paul Sartre and André Malraux, the anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss and historian Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie are naturally included, as is the painter Pablo Picasso, somewhat stretching the definition of "French". But there are some more surprising entries, including popular columnist and author Jean

Dutourd, the writer Colette and the revisionist historian Roger Garaudy.

In an editorial, Jean-Marie Rouart, the literary editor of *Le Figaro*, sought to draw a distinction between "all those who have, by their creations, added to the great family of thought, literature and art" and "those who, in one way or another, have taken a position on the great questions of the day".

"This myth of the intellectual risks placing greater value on politico-humanitarian action than on the work itself," M. Rouart warned.

But as the sheer weight of this dictionary attests, the French intellectual has played a defining and elevated role in the history of the country this century.

Régis Debray, an archetypal left-wing intellectual, once calculated that France contains about 130,000 intellectuals, or 100 to every page of the new dictionary. Despite periodic hand-wringing over the "death" of French intellectual life, debate about intellectuals is clearly alive and well.

However, one definition of an intellectual not cited in the dictionary is that of W. H. Auden:

"To the man-in-the-street, who, I'm sorry to say, is a keen observer of life. The word 'Intellectual' suggests straight away A man who's untrue to his wife."

Dictionnaire des intellectuels Français by Jacques Julliard and Michel Winock. Seuil, Fr295 (£39)

Court says bad dog needs its head read

FROM QUENTIN LEITZ IN NEW YORK

A DOG has been sent for psychiatric examination by a New York judge after it savaged its owners' granddaughter.

Becky Bear, a white-coated akita — a powerful breed of Japanese hunting dog — mauled Sarah Engstrand at her second birthday party. The child was left with scars and her parents, both lawyers, are claiming \$1.2 million (about £750,000) in damages from Becky's owners, who are Sarah's grandparents.

Judge David Saxe, of Manhattan Supreme Court, hopes that an animal behaviourist will discover if the dog has a violent nature, or whether the attack was a one-off.

The Engstrands are seeking to show that the akita had aggressive propensities, so should not have been allowed near the child. Their lawyer claimed that Sarah would need plastic surgery when she was older.

Becky Bear, now aged five, panted innocently last week as she sat at the feet of her owners. Her psychiatric exam may be conducted this week.

For her elderly owners, the case has brought much anguish. The family has been split by the legal action, which is being partly driven by an insurance company involved which paid for Sarah's medical treatment and turned down a settlement offer.

The grandparents dispute the extent of the injuries and claim that Sarah's scars are now barely visible.

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Israel to ret West
Jerusalem sparks
An unidentified

Defiant Netanyahu orders tunnel to be reopened as draconian security measures take effect

Israel unveils plan to retake troubled West Bank towns

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A DEFIANT Israel yesterday reopened the tunnel close to the Temple Mount, which sparked the clashes that left nearly 70 dead last week. It continues implementing a draconian new security plan in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip code-named Operation Field of Thorns.

Israeli sources said that the plan had been drawn-up in three stages, A, B and C, the third of which will only be put into effect if violence against Israelis worsens. Described as "the worst-case scenario", it would involve reoccupying six Palestinian-controlled towns in the West Bank and Palestinian-administered areas of Gaza, as well as disarming 30,000 Palestinian policemen in what diplomats believe would amount to an all-out war.

The West Bank towns which the Israelis intend to re-take if the security situation deteriorates are Nablus, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Tulkarm, Jenin and Jericho. Tanks were being positioned close to all of them yesterday, although the level of violence had dropped considerably.

By nightfall, two Israeli soldiers and a policeman as well as two Palestinians had been wounded in continued clashes, including riots sparked in east Jerusalem by the decision ordered personally by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to reopen the tunnel. Muslims allege the "Judaisation" of Jerusalem's Old City, occupied by Israel since 1967.

"The tunnel has been around for 2,000 years. It will stay open," Mr Netanyahu told a cheering crowd of Christian supporters in Jerusalem. "It will always be open."

The Prime Minister, whose policies provoked a 30,000-strong protest rally by the left-wing Peace Now movement in Tel Aviv on Saturday night, added: "This tunnel is 230 metres, a quarter of a kilometre from the nearest mosque. We believe in the

freedom of all three great faiths. That was, and will always remain our policy."

As part of Operation Field of Thorns, West Bank towns housing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been sealed off from each other, effectively placing the residents under "town arrest". Strict curfews have been imposed on outlying villages. Huge troop reinforcements plus scores of battle tanks have been sent to strategic areas just outside the towns, with nearly 40 tanks dug in outside Nablus, the largest West Bank city.

Military officers said that the tanks had been reinforced by special military sharpshooters, who are already in place and would be backed by Cobra helicopter gunships firing rockets and machine guns in the event of an assault to retake the towns handed over to

Palestinian control two years ago under terms of the 1993 peace accord signed in Washington. Stage C would also involve the mass arrest of Palestinians.

In what was seen as a pointed warning to the Palestinian authorities to restrain the stone-throwing mobs who have been attacking Israeli military checkpoints and remote Jewish settlements, Major General Uri Dayan, military commander in the West Bank, told Israel Radio: "On Thursday, we activated this plan, stages A and B. The mission before us is to defend Israelis and vital lifelines in our sector, imposition of law and order with strong reaction to any violation and to any risk to Israeli security interests."

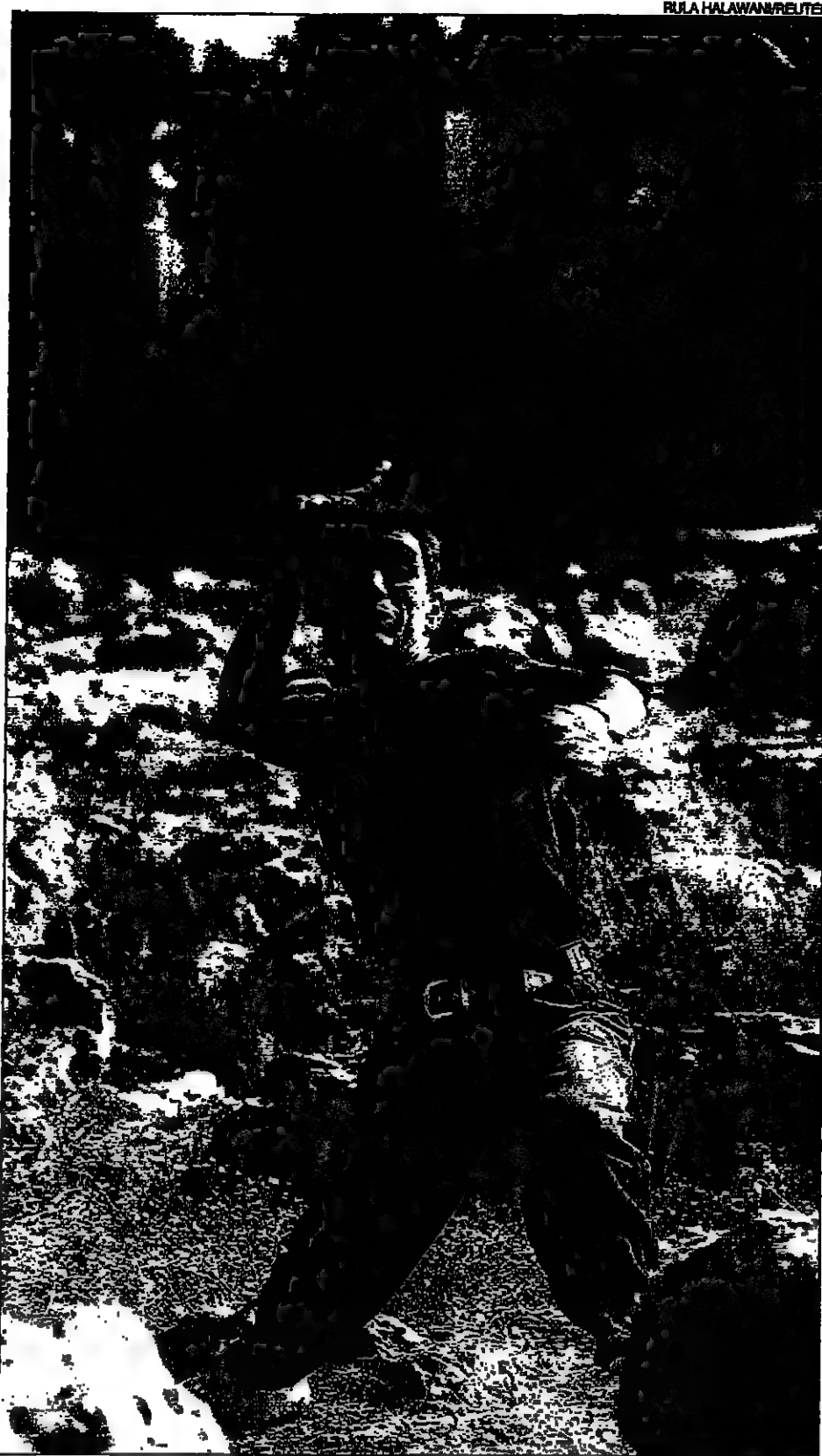
The Israelis' decision to publicise their blueprint for retaking Palestinian areas — a military provocation which Western observers fear could spark a war involving Syria and even Egypt — has added new urgency to this week's crisis summit on the Middle East in Washington called by President Clinton. It is understood that American officials have reported from Tel Aviv that the Netanyahu Government is in earnest about implementing Stage C if there are more mass attacks on Jewish soldiers and settlers.

With nearly 30 tanks reinforced by dozens of armoured personnel carriers reported to be in place around the autonomous biblical town of Jericho, a senior Palestinian military commander, Major-General Abdel-Razek al-Majaydeh, said: "The massing of troops is a provocative act and is not justified."

Israel's top soldier, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, wrongly reported in some papers yesterday as being on the brink of resignation, said that the military situation remained critical despite the tapering off of last week's violence due to a restraining policy by Palestinian policemen, who were earlier shooting at Israelis.



Israeli police reopen the tunnel yesterday



A Palestinian youth uses a sling to hurl a stone at Israeli soldiers in rioting at Bethlehem

Threat of wider war at stake in summit gamble

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THIS week's crisis summit in Washington is regarded by Arabs and Israelis as a necessary gamble. If it fails to satisfy Palestinian expectations, an explosion of violence much more serious than last week's fighting is feared.

Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat will be facing the hardest test of their careers. It comes at a time when the Middle East is dangerously close to the brink of a new war which could drag in Syria and even Egypt unless swift diplomatic surgery is carried out.

Although intensive American diplomacy preceded yesterday's summit announcement by President Clinton, it emerged last night that no deals on concessions have been done behind the scenes. Danny Navah, the Israeli Cabinet Secretary, said: "There is only one understanding — that we are going to Washington."

Mr Arafat has been insisting on the closure of the newly-opened second exit to the tunnel at Temple Mount as a condition of a meeting with Mr Netanyahu. But Israel has not given way.

"We all know that Netanyahu has to give Arafat something, but so far we have no idea what," said one reporter familiar with the Shin Bet intelligence service. The battles of the last few days had raised a bigger question over a date for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the contested holy city of Hebron, because of the doubts "about the reliability of the Palestinian police", he added.

Mr Netanyahu's influential communications director, David Bar-Ilan, said that the delayed "redeployment" from Hebron — home to 450 Jewish settlers — could become even more problematic. Under the

Oslo agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, signed in 1993, withdrawal should have taken place in March, but was postponed by the previous Labour Government after devastating Islamic suicide bombs claimed 60 lives in less than ten days. Now right-wing Jewish settlers and their religious allies are pressing for it to be put off permanently.

Mr Bar-Ilan said that as a result of the "blatant attacks" on Israelis by the Palestinian police "we might now find it necessary to be doubly careful". He added: "Everywhere that the Palestinian police were present there was trouble, and to add another city [Hebron] to those where they are present, with their arms, is something that we want to reconsider."

Mr Bar-Ilan's uncompromising comments were seen as a new warning light by the Palestinian leadership, as they indicated that the Netanyahu Government — despite promises to the contrary — was considering renegotiating on vital clauses of the Oslo agreement.

Mr Navah attempted to inject a note of reassurance: "We must return to the negotiating table. We have no intention to renegotiate Oslo. We have an interest in ensuring the Oslo agreements are honoured..."

Mr Arafat, who granted a rare 90-minute interview to Israel's biggest selling paper, *Yediot Ahronot*, to express his frustrations and his demands for the talks, said: "I believe that a meeting should lead to real acts and progress in terms of carrying out of the (Oslo) agreement. With Netanyahu, everything begins and ends with a meeting. I hope the situation changes."

Jerusalem flashpoint sparks new protests

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAELI soldiers and paramilitary police lined the narrow streets of Jerusalem's Old City yesterday to ensure that the Hasmonian tunnel that provoked the recent Arab-Israeli blood-letting remained open in the face of fierce Palestinian objections.

The large Israeli force drove away scores of stone-throwers who attacked the tunnel door when it was reopened on orders from the Government after a 48-hour closure for the Jewish Sabbath. Senior Palestinian officials claimed that they had been given no notice of the reopening, which one described as "an act of war".

Most of the tourists who passed through the claustrophobic 500-yard tunnel, rediscovered by British archaeologist Charles Warren in 1867, were religious Jews, which increased Palestinian anger over the project.

"Jerusalem belongs to the Jewish people and do not let anyone say any different," Tzvi Zucker said after stepping out of the tunnel, which runs alongside the Temple Mount, sacred to both Muslims and Jews, and on to the Via Dolorosa, the route many

Christians believe Jesus walked on the way to his death. But milling groups of newsmen and security guards far outnumbered tourists.

The exit from which Mr Zucker emerged was reopened last week by Israeli workmen operating under cover of darkness. It provides a second exit from the tunnel.

Although Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, claimed the new exit had been opened to boost tourism, many bemused foreign visitors to the historic area yesterday appeared wary of it. "I hear the Israeli police opened it... and it goes under the al-Aqsa mosque. The Arabs do not like it," said José, a Spanish tourist.

Despite the tension and street battles on the Via Dolorosa yesterday, elsewhere in east Jerusalem at the weekend there were some scenes of mutual sympathy. Palestinians helped four Israeli border police injured when their vehicle overturned while speeding to the scene of a Palestinian riot. Some of the Palestinians tended to the wounded men with water and other help before Israeli medical teams could reach them.

US remains neutral at the UN

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United States withheld support from a UN Security Council initiative to urge Israel to shut the controversial tunnel under the al-Aqsa mosque and to resume peace talks.

The Security Council adopted a resolution on Saturday night by a vote of 14-0 after a parade of visiting foreign ministers criticised Israel's rightwing government for constructing a second entrance to the tunnel.

The US abstained from the vote, even though it has also been critical of the opening of the tunnel and has called for renewed dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

The resolution referred to the opening of the tunnel and "its consequent results", and called for the "immediate cessation and reversal of all acts which have resulted in the aggravation of the situation".

Any explicit condemnation of Israel was removed from the resolution after negotiations to avert the threat of a veto. Some diplomats had feared that America would use its veto to protect Israel, as it did last year.

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An unidentified Palestinian man tends to an Israeli border policeman hurt in a car crash

SAVE

IN YOUR

The death of a party man

Millions died in Stalin's purges. Boris Bibikov, a dedicated Communist from Ukraine, was shot for crimes against the State. Owen Matthews went to Kiev in search of his grandfather's file and the truth behind his execution

My mother's earliest memory is of a December night in 1937 in Chernigov, Ukraine, when she, aged three-and-a-half, and her sister Lenina, 12, were woken by the sound of their mother bursting into their bedroom, screaming. Armed men in the uniform of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (the NKVD, predecessor of the KGB), dragged the three of them into the hall, down to the street and into separate police cars. As their mother, Martha, was driven away, Lenina and Ludmila struggled free and vainly ran after the departing car. The soldiers caught them and drove them to the Simferopol children's prison as the children of an enemy of the people.

They were not to see their mother again for 11 years. Their father, unknown to them, had been executed in Stalin's great purge, and buried in a mass grave somewhere near Kiev. Lenina and Ludmila were to spend their childhood years in children's prisons and orphanages. It was only in 1956, when their father was officially rehabilitated, that they were informed of his death: they had been told his sentence had been "ten years without the right of correspondence". The files are still classified as top secret, and it was only in December 1995 that the Ukrainian Security Service finally gave permission for me to examine them, thanks to a new law that allows close relatives the right of access. The truth, or at least as much of it as survives in the NKVD files, has come to light at last. Whatever now remains unknown has died with the witnesses.

Martha Bibikov's arrest came five tense months after her husband, Boris Lvovich Bibikov, party secretary of the Chernigov region of the Ukraine, had been arrested on July 27, 1937, while on holiday. It was a dangerous time to be a party official. By the time the great purge's momentum slowed at the beginning of 1938, the whole Ukrainian politburo had been shot or put in labour camps. Only three of

the 102 members of the Ukrainian Party's Central Committee survived, and 80 per cent of the Writers' Union were killed, as well as every one of the provincial secretaries — including Boris Bibikov.

The night after his arrest in July 1937, the NKVD came to search his four-room flat, leaving all the rooms except the kitchen and bathroom sealed. Martha and the children were left with nothing but the clothes that had been left drying over the bathtub. The next morning she wrung out a wet dress and ran to the NKVD office. She was told that her husband was under arrest for anti-Soviet activities, and that she would be in-

Lenina, now 70. "There was one light burning on a large oak desk, behind which I could see a small man with a bald head and small round glasses. I was frightened because he looked like a gnome. He asked my uncle what we wanted. My uncle replied that his brother had been arrested. Beria pressed a button under his desk and called for the file. He looked at it for a moment, said 'Razberemys' (We'll sort it out), and sent us away."

The file, the all-important file. It was, by the time Beria saw it, like a tumour swelling with its fatal contents, that within eight weeks were to bring about the death of its subject. When I opened its brown cardboard cover, disintegrating with age, more than 57 years later on a grey morning in a dingy office in the former KGB building in Kiev, it had lost none of its chilling potency.

It is a compilation of the absurdly petty (confiscation of party card, confiscation of a Browning automatic and 23 rounds of ammunition, confiscation of Lenina's Young Communist holiday trip) and the starkly shocking: long confessions, written in microscopic, crabbed writing, covered in blotches and written under torture. The formal accusation is signed by Stalin's chief prosecutor, Andrei Vyshinsky, the badly mimeographed form with the scribbled signature verifying that the sentence of execution has been carried out.

Papers, forms, notes, receipts, all the paraphernalia of a nightmarish, self-devouring bureaucracy. It sat heavily in the lap, dusty and eerily malignant; three pounds of paper that equalled one human life.

Bibikov was condemned to death by a closed session of the Military Collegium in Kiev on October 13, 1937, under the infamous Article 58 of the Soviet Criminal Code, which covered "any act designed to overthrow, undermine or weaken the authority of the workers' and peasants' Soviet". He had been a true Communist. A party member since the age of 21, he had received the Order of Lenin (the Soviet Union's highest decoration) for his part in building the Kharkov Tractor Factory (KhTZ), one of the flagships of Stalin's industrialisation drive. When his first daughter was born in 1925 he named her after his hero, Lenin.

Yet he confessed. He confessed abjectly, in writing, to crimes against the Soviet Union; sabotage of the factory he helped to build, recruitment of Trotskyite agents, propaganda against the State. He admitted that he had betrayed the party to which he had devoted his life.

The first confession is dated August 14, 1937; 19 days after his arrest. It was a long time to hold out. Robert Conquest, in his book *The Great Terror*, describes the infamous NKVD "conveyor", a method of interrogation which, unless the accused died, was almost guaranteed to secure a confession within one week. Prisoners would be interrogated continually by teams of investigators, deprived of food and sleep, harangued, beaten and humiliated until they signed or wrote their confessions. My grandfather broke in the end, like all the others.

"At the Kharkov Tractor Factory we decided to sabotage an expensive, complicated machine that was crucial to the production of wheeled tractors..." he wrote in blotting, tiny writing in his third and last detailed confession. "We persuaded engineer Kozlov to leave a tool in the machine so that it would be broken for a long period. The machine alone cost 40,000 in gold and is one of only two in the whole country. Our evil counter-revolutionary act was averted only by the vigilance of senior engineer Ginzburg. This is how I betrayed my party, Bibikov."



Boris Bibikov, who received the Order of Lenin, and his death certificate, giving the cause of death as "shot"

There was one part of the file that was closed to me. Thirty-odd pages of the rehabilitation section were wrapped in paper and taped together. After much insistence on my part, I finally got permission to open the forbidden documents. They concerned the NKVD investigators who had dealt with the case. Even now, the Ukrainian Security Service was trying to protect its own.

When the case was reopened in 1955 on the orders of Khrushchev, dozens of witnesses who knew Boris Bibikov were questioned about his supposed anti-Soviet activities (all pronounced him a sincere and dedicated Communist). But the investigators could not be questioned, because by the end of 1938 they had all been shot. The purge, like its predecessor, the Jacobin terror after the French Revolution, consumed its perpetrators. Amazingly, the climate of terror was so intense that until the Khrushchev era, nobody dared to question what had happened to the millions of people who had disappeared. Lenina even died when Stalin died in 1953.

My mother, Ludmila Bibikov, after 14 years in orphanages, won a place at Moscow University after concealing the fact that her parents had been purged. In 1959 she met my father, William Matthews, then a young academic who was working at the British Embassy. They were separated when he was thrown out of the Soviet Union in 1964. After corresponding daily for years she was finally granted permission to leave the country to get married.

My grandmother, Martha Bibikov, went partially insane in the labour camp of Karlag in Kazakhstan. She was released from the camp in 1948, but spent the next year in exile near by. She married a fellow prisoner, a priest, and had a child by him, which died on the train as she was returning to Moscow. She died in 1983 in her native Crimea.

I met her as a child when she visited London in 1976. I recall vividly that during a childish game of cops and robbers I put a pair of toy handcuffs on her wrists, and she wept. It is only now that I have come to really understand why.

Mondays are bad for your health

INHALE deeply through your nose, and exhale through your mouth. Repeat five times. By performing this relaxation exercise, and simultaneously trying to forget the enormous workload waiting for you in the office this morning, you will edge yourself out of the danger zone. For there is no greater peril than the first day of the week.

According to scientists in America, you are more likely to suffer dangerous abnormalities in heart rhythm on a Monday or Friday than on any other day of the week. The finding supports the earlier known fact that more people suffer heart attacks on Monday than any other day. The study looked at 683 people who suffer spontaneous irregularities in heart-beat and clocked every occasion when the heart rate exceeded 214 beats per minute (the normal range is 60-100). The resulting weekly pattern peaked on Mondays, had a second peak on Fridays and dipped markedly on Saturday and Sunday.

The findings were reported in the current issue of *Circulation*, the journal of the American Heart Association, and led to this pearl of wisdom by lead author Dr Robert Peters. "Our hypothesis... is that, somehow, getting up on a Monday morning triggers this. It is tempting to speculate that arrhythmias are triggered by the stress of returning to work and perhaps by anticipating the end of the working week."

To most people, Mondays mean crawling out of bed for a stressful rerun of the previous week's trials. Is it any wonder that our hearts literally sink (and shake a bit)?

Worse, a dicky heart is merely one in a roll-call of nasty fates waiting to ambush you. Monday is said to be the worst day for car breakdowns, and Mondays and Fridays are the preferred days for suicides. Perhaps a flicker in your ticker isn't so bad after all.

ANJANA AHUJA

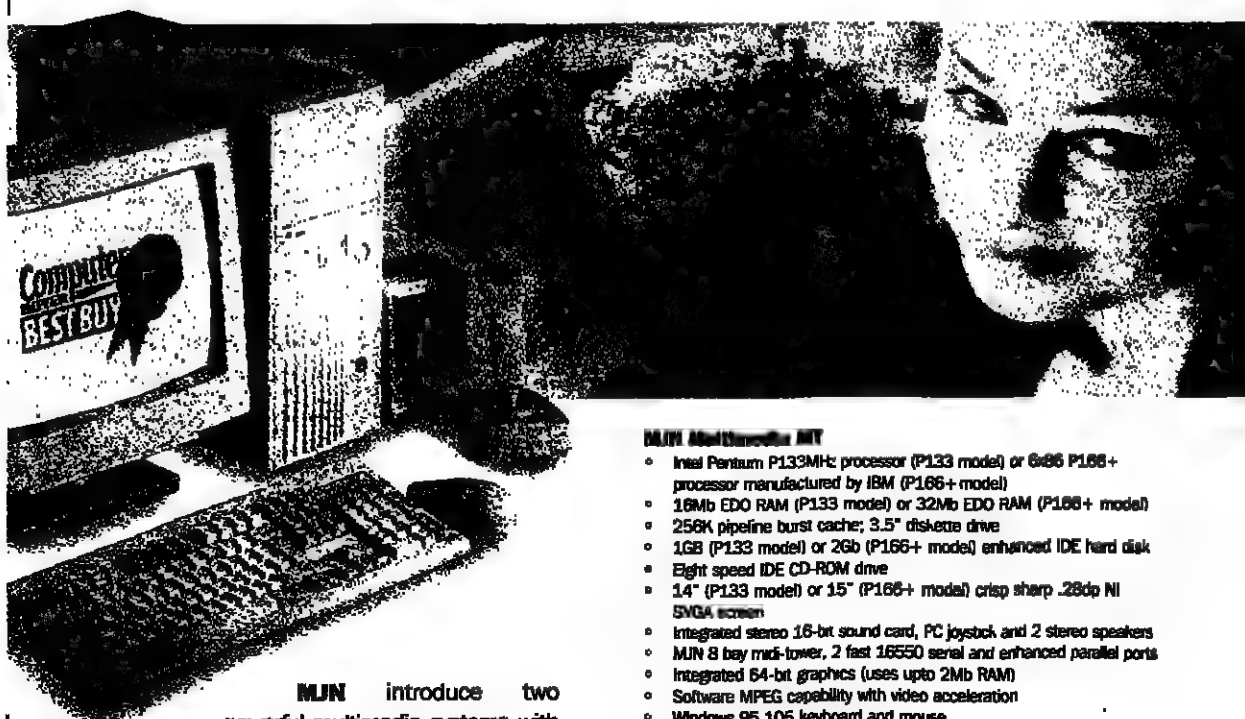
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Ludmila, left, and Lenina Bibikov in 1938

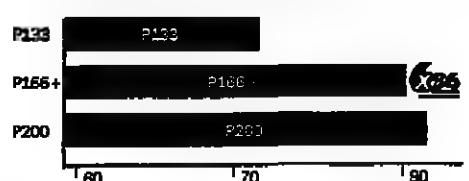
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As she approaches her fiftieth birthday, Bel Mooney comes to terms with the guilt of 'I didn't plan it this way — I wasn't supposed to get old'

I doubt if my 22-year-old mother heard the first handy hints for housewives on the new radio programme *Woman's Hour*. On the afternoon of October 7, 1946, she might even have felt the first twinges and been on the bus to Broadgreen Hospital with her mother-in-law. I was born on October 8, into the austerity of postwar, bombed-out Liverpool, into rationing — and a whole set of assumptions encapsulated by two facts. *Woman's Hour*, on the BBC Light Programme, with its "talks by experts on keeping house, on health, on children, furnishings, beauty care — in fact everything concerned with your sort of problems in the home" — was presented by a man. And nobody would have thought it odd that my young father had to discover the gender of his new baby by walking to his Dad and ringing the hospital. Birth was women's business.

The 1946 crop, the baby boom, was a good one. Cher, Susan Sarandon, Hayley Mills, Marina Warner, Mari-

anne Faithfull, Joanna Lumley, Jane Birkin, Clare Short, Edwina Currie, Helen Mirren, Felicity Kendal, Sue Lawley, Alison Steadman... and that's just some of the women. Malcolm Rifkind, Donovan, Maurice Saatchi, William Shawcross, Oliver Stone, Jack Straw, Sylvester Stallone... all have completed half a decade, and some of us realise we have to let go.

But of what? Most 50-year-olds I know would deny that you have to let go of anything. We cling to the wreckage, ignoring the sharks, feeling invincible. A friend of mine said to me: "Our lot were the ones who never had it so good." Then came the Sixties — which meant miniskirts and feminism at once. We had education and no worries about jobs. We asked questions and supplied the answers. Actually, we ruled the world. So we aren't going to give that up easily.

My generation was the last not to grow up punch drunk on television, to remember when public libraries thrived and were stuffed with books,

not videos, and when the sexiest thing in newspapers was the *Daily Mirror's* Jane cartoon. The lovers of film stars were called "constant companions", and people like my grandmother (a dinner lady at Childwall Valley High School, where Alison Steadman was a pupil) would follow the doings of the Royal Family with reverence and love. At ten and 11 I could walk to primary school alone, and play on the swings after school without anybody worrying. Baby-boomers at State schools might be in a class of 50 (as I was) yet enjoyed a finer, richer, more rigorous education than most children today, including those in the private sector. Few people had cars, nobody went "abroad". Little girls in the early Fifties were dressed up in suits just like their mothers, and the most exciting event of the week was *The Ovaltines* on the radio, and (later) *Journey into Space*.

But there was a sound around the corner that would banish *Family Favourites* forever. I tumbled into rock 'n' roll when Tommy



Bel Mooney entering her second half century: "Most 50-year-olds I know would deny that you have to let go of anything. We cling to the wreckage."

Steele and Cliff Richard played Liverpool, and Elvis Presley and the Everly Brothers sobbed through my dreams. We stepped from childhood to teenage as the Sixties began, in perfect time

to live a revolution in style politics and behaviour. In 1963 I bought the Beatles' first LP and the Rev John Robinson's sensational reappraisal of Christianity, *Honest to God* and decided God did not exist, but that John Lennon was right about divinity.

I hitched to a Stones gig, joined the Movement for Colonial Freedom and CND, shortened all my home-made skirts, read Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* — and lost my virginity. It all seemed so easy. The handy hints of old *Woman's Hour* were not for girls like us. We were enabled: there were plenty of jobs, and those of us who went off to college or university knew we were able to play what Philip Larkin only glimpsed from his bleak high windows: "A quite unlooseable game."

Getting old was not part of the life plan. Last year an older friend asked me what age I thought myself inside. "Thirty," I said, without hesitation. The person who walked around inside my head was forever young, sassy, flirtatious and wicked, certainly rebellious. She could slink around in leathers and do



Hand in hand: Bel with her mother in 1953

whatever she liked. Then, one bad day all harassed, I caught a sudden sideways glimpse of myself in a shop mirror. Horrified, I wondered: "Who is that hag walking around wearing my clothes?" In the

summer, full of gloom at the impending half-century, I tried on the kind of clinging dress I once wore. But the first stomach has gone: three pregnancies, decades of wine and vodka consumption, and little

or no exercise have finally finished it. Miserable, I flung it back on the rail, then flounced into W H Smith to buy Rosemary Conley's *Complete Flat Stomach Plan*. It has still not been removed from its case.

But show me a jar that promises to minimise wrinkles and renew the skin, and I will buy. Although I will never have a facelift, I pour no scorn on those women who do. We all cling at straws.

If getting old was not part of the life plan, what was? At 20 I'd have said: a couple of degrees, then lecturing and writing and getting famous, with (much later) a perfect marriage and three perfect children — none of which would interfere with the aims of independence and liberation.

But like many women I found that grand plans and personal impulses can clash. In 1968, just 21, I married a man I had known for only three months and finished my degree despite the sudden shock of domesticity. Since then, it seems, juggling has been my chief skill. As a young journalist my great love

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CHANGING TIMES

TOMORROW



How I faced the fact of being 50 — and came to realise it can be fabulous

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her free-wheeling generation — and decides to become a middle aged woman with attitude



Bel with daughter Kitty at the age of seven in 1987



The ages of Bel Mooney: on the day of her wedding to Jonathan Dimbleby in 1968; with her son, Daniel in 1974; and Bel as a child in Liverpool in 1952, when little girls dressed like their mothers and played in safety in the street

was reportage: I wanted to "tell it like it is" with the passionate, naive conviction that if you expose evils and inequalities in a society someone will do something about them. But at 27 I had my first child, Daniel, and ended up writing the kind of short "think pieces" that keep you going, while the baby bobs in the rocker beside the table. The lowest point came when I covered suntan preparations for the *Daily Express*, and wondered what had happened to my fantasies of going to Vietnam.

In 1975 I had a second son, who was stillborn at full term, and his death made me feel (in a dark, primitive way) that I was being punished for my mistakes for not really wanting to be a wife and mother, even though Daniel was the love of my life. I would push him up and down the Kings Road in his pushchair, watching the punks, and chafe at the thought of going home and picking up pieces of Lego. We had a mother's help, but I had been brought up to think that children should be with their parents or grandparents. The truth was, I believed it too. I wanted liberation but not to be a lousy mother. The party had moved on, and I wasn't on the guest list any more.

In 1979, in bed for three months with the third pregnancy, I watched my husband conduct a debate on television. When he came home I was in tears. Concerned, he knelt by the bed and asked if I was worried about the baby. "It's not that," I sobbed in fury. "I just wish I could have done your programme." Our daughter, Kitty, was born with a rare bowel disease, which has meant 16 years (on and off) of hospital treatments and operations. We had other crises in the family. Our son had personal problems which led to him dropping out of university.

A year later, I became involved in a road protest, my husband made a TV film and published a biography of the Prince of Wales and we both



Marching with Kitty against road development

came to understand the true meaning of punk journalism. My hoped-for career shift into screenwriting fizzled out. Unwittingly I moved house, last year, and thought I would go mad with exhaustion and frustration and grief for the old home of 16 years. The point is, I stumbled, stressed-out into my fiftieth year, juggling more frantically than ever, and allowing myself (for the first time) to complain. "This

isn't how I wanted it to be." Such lows force you to accept the shortfall in "perfect" happiness, and know that no game worth playing is unlosable. What's more, the end of complacency, the coming to terms, can act like a spark to a powder keg. Most days now I view the world I helped to create (privileged as a baby-boomer) through a mist of red rage. Young, I thought we could do it better. Older, I realise we didn't — and that perhaps our legacy is not just music and nostalgia, but a series of betrayals that have made this world a nastier place.

Leftist ideology and liberal laziness within local councils, teacher training colleges and schools betrayed millions of working-class children by peddling spurious "ideas" of equality, non-competitiveness and so-called self-expression, so that generations leave school illiterate and innumerate, and with no sense of order or respect for anything. It is as good a way as any of keeping the workers in their place. The baby-boom generation learnt by rote, and deprived others of the privilege of doing likewise.

Then there is the great betrayal of the idea of "freedom". Over the years, I have argued with my peers, the liberal intelligentsia, who regard the word "censorship" as a blasphemy (while not caring about blasphemy itself, of course), and thus colluded in the degradation of countless women and children in the burgeoning pornography industry. Smart, amoral young film makers revere Tarantino for his undoubted cleverness, and

I stumbled, stressed-out into my fiftieth year, juggling more frantically than ever. The party had moved on

will go to Hell declaring over their chardonnay that there is no proven connection between violence on screen and violence on the street. And out there, in the dark where they never poke their privileged heads, real people are imprisoned in a savage chaos. Television moguls betray their audience by serving them pap like *Hollywood Wives* in the guise of factual programming and pander to the lowest common denominator of grossness. Worse, newspaper editors coarsen their readers with a daily diet of prurience, lies and malice. "It's what people want," these media folk cry, falsely and insultingly, as they cook up some new justification for a further lowering of standards. The tone of comment is increasingly cruel and cynical, as if La Burchill, A.A. Gill and the rest were weaned on bile not milk, and breathe bitterness instead of air. The thing is, most of the people with power and influ-



Together: Bel, the young wife, with her mother

The baby-boomers look back and say "we had it all", but the small voice inside me asks: "What did we do with it, except live for the present?" It is no good blaming Thatcher's Children for the mess and the misery, because we went before and showed the way. It was us who taught them the riff of *Me, Me, Me*.

This anger makes me free. In my forties, I retreated to an ivory tower, wringing my hands and saying: "Isn't it awful?" When I joined the protest against the Bathurst By-pass in 1994 all that fell away, and I realised something truly liberating.

As I trundled inexorably towards 50 I did not care a fig what people thought about me. I was afraid of nobody — not burly security guards, nor politicians, nor second-rate hacks. I realised that there comes a point when you have to stand up and yell NO!, and that I would spend my fifties doing just that — middle aged with attitude.

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OPENS: Tonight, Aberdeen
REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE

The irrepressible Ken Campbell comes to the Cottesloe with *Violin Times*
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

OPERA: Puccini in Cardiff and Massenet in London

Rushing through the real Bohemia

THE centenary of *La Bohème* has brought many reminders of what the work is not about, and anyone with feelings for the real thing will rejoice in Welsh National Opera's revival in Cardiff, soon to tour England. WNO's strength is its team of excellent young principals who act and sing with true ensemble spirit.

It is that spirit on which Göran Järvefelt's production, now revived by Ronnie Wright, pivots. The staging is 12 years old but it remains at once newly luminating and true to Puccini. Michael Yeargan's designs update the action to roughly the period of composition, though that is hardly important: because the youthful high spirits that Puccini

La Bohème Cardiff

captures are universal, the period can be shifted far more radically without the work losing its special glow. What matters is the poverty which motivates the plot, and that is evoked from the start in the chilly grey-browns of the attic. Nothing is romanticised in the deliberately uninviting, spare scenery, which helps to focus attention on a very uptight and head-strong group of Bohemians.

Most intense of all is the Marcello of Gerald Finley, making a significant role debut as the painter. His virile, lithe baritone has

made him a good Mozartian, and here he gets his voice around Puccini's lines in the same musicianly way. This Marcello is characterised in warm-hearted depth, and even though his quarrel with Musetta hurts, he gives her as good as he gets. And from her entrance, Linda Tuva's cheekily brazen Musetta demands attention. In her first role with a major British company, Tuva's discloses natural operatic talent, confirming the promise this Swedish soprano showed in student productions in London.

This double act slightly overshadowed the leading couple on the opening night. Rosalind Sutherland's Mimì made curiously little impression in Act I but came into her own in the strongly sung, soaring phrases of the third act and an affecting death scene. In his British debut, the Uruguayan-Italian tenor Carlo Ventre was a solidly voiced, compassionately acted Rodolfo. Not all his top notes were beautiful, but he had them, and he blended well in the ensembles with Neal Davies's Schaunard and Stephen Richardson's Colline.

Indeed, ensemble was good considering the break-neck speed with which Carlo Rizzi launched the opera. At times he was unremitting, at others he found rubatos Puccini never dreamt of, but he steered the strong orchestra and chorus through a boldly theatrical performance.

JOHN ALLISON

Carlo Ventre, Rosalind Sutherland in WNO's revival

Moments of magic

THIS concert performance of Massenet's opera was given under the Great Orchestras of the World banner and, allowing for a touch of promoters' hyperbole and critics' defensive double-negative, not entirely unjustifiably. The Orchestra of the Opéra National de Lyon is a very good band indeed: unobtrusively romantic solo violin and cello, coolly eloquent flute and soupy saxophone. The dispassionate, fleeting string figures introducing the *Clair de Lune* duet were played double pianissimo and absolutely together — pure magic.

The conductor, Kent Nagano, favoured on the whole a fat sound picture and bold, four-square phrasing, but textures of shot-silk rather than rich velvet can pay higher dividends in Massenet. The word "retentir" did not appear to be in

Werther Barbican Hall

Nagano's vocabulary, and his Werther came dangerously close to the wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am world of the Italian *veristi* who drew such inspiration from their French contemporaries. And the "big" sound was not helpful to all the soloists. Anne Sofie von Otter is a fastidious musical mezzo, but much of Charlotte's music lies towards the bottom of the stage, where her pliant, beautifully soft-grained tone does not always project easily. Her Letter Scene, *Air des Larmes* and Prayer — a formidably demanding triptych — were tasteful, sweet, not quite forceful enough.

But Jerry Hadley was on sterling form in the title role.

His use of head voice, as uninhibited as the solo violin that introduced him, was as melting as it was authentic, and even singing full out his tone remained liquid and supple.

A French opera company would, of course, rather close itself down than be reduced to casting native singers in these roles, and while both Otter and Hadley sang in perfectly acceptable French, it was from the supporting singers that you heard how expressive Massenet's word-setting can be, especially from Jean-Marie Frémoux's genial Bailli. Gérard Théron made the most of Albert's few lines, and Virginia Pochon was a bright-toned Sophie, one who could have made more of her third-act scene with accompaniment less wooden than Nagano's.

RODNEY MILNES

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on the Young Vic's Lorca. Plus, a melancholy tale



Couple in trouble: Jasper Britton (Leonardo) and Alexandra Gilbreath (the Bride) in the Young Vic's production of Lorca's classic *Blood Wedding*

Blood runs a little thin

WHEN so much is right, how can so much be wrong? Lorca's *Blood Wedding* is, after all, a singularly powerful blend of tragic poetry and peasant prose. Ted Hughes's translation has as much sinewy strength as any one could have hoped, and Adrian Lee's score has plenty of bold, brash moments. Yet I spent much of the first half, and even some of the better second, feeling I was watching a bunch of eccentrically dressed Sloanes performing scenes left on the cutting-room floor by the makers of a movie originally meant to be titled *Five Weddings and a Funeral*.

Nobody will deny that the play is a tricky one for British actors. Somehow they have to transplant us to a hot, arid Spanish outback where blood feuds seethe on for generations. They have to make us feel that virginity is inviolable, marriage is sacrosanct, and someone who carries away another man's bride just after her wedding deserves to be hunted down and killed. They have to leave us believing that human passion, like a fire out of control, devastates whatever it touches.

Tim Supple has given us some fine things since he became director of the Young Vic, but his production passes none of these tests. How could it? A landscape described as consisting of "weeds, thistles, stones that come up from nowhere" has become a small triangular patio backed by a

concrete wall. The lighting is bright without seeming hot. The faces on show have not seen the sun, nor the hands touched the earth, nor the voices (a Balkan one excepted) ventured far from SW1. When a woodcutter mentions the sound of the cricket, you expect to hear the thwack of bat on ball, so clean and well-bred are he and his chums.

Supple might reasonably reply that an ersatz primitivism would be offputting. If you try to gnarl faces or scar voices, you risk making both seem phoney. But almost anything would be better than a wedding feast largely peopled by nice bouncy kids who, judging by the orange make-up plastered across their faces, have just enjoyed an all-purpose treat at some jolly English theme-park. When the cast reacts to the disappearance of Jasper Britton's

Leonardo with Alexandra Gilbreath's Bride by hurling chrysanthemums off the trellis tables, you are not watching outraged villagers running dangerously amok, only a little genteel hooliganism at the village fête.

All the main performers are of proven quality, but all would benefit from a week spent clambering barefoot up the Pyrenees in August with their worst enemies for com-

pany. They just don't rise to the emotional, physical or geographic occasion. The usually excellent Gillian Barge, playing the Bridegroom's mother, seems to have got her maternal roles confused. She gives us the grim, imposing Volumnia from *Coriolanus*, not a Spanish widow whose soul burns with anger, sorrow and the awful, acidulous memory of sons and husband murdered. Gilbreath and Britton have their pained moments — but where is the sexual electricity between them? Where is the dark fury of Hamish McCall, the deserted bridegroom?

Yet the verbal conditions could not be more favourable. Hughes's translation has a simplicity and cut force missing from the one on one shelves. Compare his "Nothing but grief, guilt and fire sweeping up through my head, filling my tongue with splinters of glass" with "oh, what lamenting, what fire, sweeps us through my head! What glass splinters are stuck in my tongue"; and there is no doubt which version is the more vivid and speakable. Meanwhile, Lee produces strange, disturbing sounds with the help of instruments ranging from the South American to the Indonesian.

But the mandola, didgeridoo, charango and khamoi cannot alone create the fierce, perilous feel Lorca wanted. Vital acting is rather more essential. And that, sadly, proves elusive.

LUKE CLANCY

Sad Irish cobblers

HAVING taken a minor role in the original Abbey production of his *The Cavalcadors*, playwright Billy Roche moves to centre stage for the revival at the Everyman Palace, taking the part of Terry, the emotional black hole at the centre of his drama of love and close harmonies in an Irish cobbler's.

As the workshop that has been the setting for so much of his life prepares to tool up for while-U-wait shoe repairs, Terry is haunted by his past. Time spent with the now-defunct Cavalcadors, his old barber-shop quartet, drifts unbidden into his mind.

The melancholy mood of the piece is not, however, simply a matter of the demise of old ways of life. Sadness comes instead from the sight of a middle-aged man growing up far too late, his life already ruined by a hurt that should have healed years ago.

The central trick of Roche's play involves sliding grimy realities of everyday life into register with the contrived scenarios of the crooner songbook. Love starts to fester, friendships crumble, but the sad songs, like Terry, refuse reality.

The real pleasure of *The Cavalcadors* comes in the second half when the author takes a

The Cavalcadors Cork

of any moment relies on shifts of lighting which turn out to be splashy and uneven, however, trouble ensues. In the current production, when Terry's past and present begin to intermingle, and ghosts and memories overrun the cobbler's shop, director Johnny Hanrahan's staging lacks the necessary agility to keep things clear.

In the role formerly played by Roche, Ray McBride achieves the kind of hirsute charisma that must by now be a type of sleepwalking for him, while David Ganley and J.D. Kelleher, as the final members of the quartet, keep things neat around the dramatist's peripheral vision.

The casting of the two female roles is noticeably weaker. Rynagh O'Grady as Breda, the thorn where Terry had hoped for a rose, is a wink or two shy of the understated confidence required, while as Nuala, the young shopgirl, Leslie McGuire more often than not misses the sweet spot between guileless infatuation and plain silliness.

LUKE CLANCY

POP: Nigel Williamson in poetic groove with Linton Kwesi Johnson and on a tour of Emmylou Harris country

From town and country

NO ONE has chronicled the struggles of black people in Britain more effectively than Linton Kwesi Johnson. His combination of poetry and reggae has inspired a generation of dub musicians in Britain and around the world. In his only live appearance of the year he gave a black history lesson of the past 20 years. Who now remembers Blair Peach, the Special Patrol Group, the riots in Brixton and Toxteth and the sabbat? All were commemorated at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Indeed, one of Johnson's song-poems is called *Making History*. He urges black people in Britain to be proud of what they have achieved but makes it clear in *Di Anfinish Revalushan* there is still a long way to go. "We not reach Mount Zion yet," he sang.

Johnson looks far from revolutionary these days. He came on in a sober tie and jacket and read half a dozen

poems, including a love lyric and a moving piece for a dead nephew. There was even self-deprecating humour in his *If I was a tap natch poet*.

Later he was joined by the eight-piece Dennis Bovell Band, who add variety to their reggae rhythms with flute and violin. It is when set against this music that Johnson's innate sense of poetic rhythm is at its best. He uses alliteration and simple rhyme to articulate the concerns of black people on the streets as part of a proud oral tradition of social comment. Particularly effective is *Sony's Letrah*, a protest at the now-scraped sabbat law in the form of a letter written by a young man to his mother from Brixton jail. *Dred Beat an' Blood* was also impressive.

PEOPLE who suffer from it get fed up. Just thinking about it makes it worse. And many prescribed drugs have adverse effects. But there are qualified people who now specialise in treating this embarrassing condition *painlessly*. I found them, he said, at The Medical Centre in Weymouth Street, London W1N 3PA. Call them on 0171 637 2018, now!

In his newer material Johnson has begun to look elsewhere for inspiration. In *Mi Revalushanary Fren* he heaps scorn on East European dictators and likens their demise to the ending of apartheid. Yet where is the poetry of contemporary black British struggle? Strangely Johnson does not seem to have written about the recent alarming number of deaths of black people in police custody and there was not a single mention of Michael Howard, not a popular man on the streets of Brixton. Johnson told his audience: "There is such a thing as British justice. But if you're black you have to fight for it." For two decades he has been in the vanguard of that fight. Long may he stay there.

THE current vogue for making stars of kooky young women, such as Alanis Morissette who sing about sex and neurosis is never going to embrace Emmylou Harris. The silver-haired American singer, whose roots are country but who is now so much more, has her feet far too firmly on the ground. One minute she was sitting at a table in the Jazz Café chatting with her mother and some close friends, the next there

she was on stage. The packed club took not a bit of notice until she began to sing. They had paid to hear her voice, not to stargaze.

There ought to be a law which says that for every big concert hall or stadium an artist should have to play three small clubs. It was a rare treat to hear Harris for three nights at this intimate Camden club when she can fill venues ten times the size.

The world is slowly waking up to the fact that last year's *Wrecking Ball* is one of the albums of the 1990s and easily her most innovative work to date, redefining the frontiers of country music to the point where such labels become irrelevant.

Harris writes little of her own material. Her consummate skill lies in discovering and interpreting some of the finest songwriting talent around. She played almost the entire *Wrecking Ball* album, giving new depth to songs by Neil Young and Bob Dylan, a heart-rending version of Steve Earle's *Goodbye* and an improbably beautiful rendition of Hendrix's *May This Be Love*.

Backed largely by the band on the album, the sound had a haunting sparseness, some-

times filled with echoing guitars which then fell back to end on a capella harmonies. The effect was haunting. Today the voice has a grittier edge to complement the fragility and purity which first made her a country star. There were nods to her past

with *Love Hurts*, which she once sang so achingly with Gram Parsons, *Poncho and Lefty* and, inevitably, *Boulder* to Birmingham. But it was the new material that made the strongest impact.

Recent scientific research suggested that country music makes listeners prone to suicide. This audience left in ecstatic mood, but then these days Emmylou Harris is hardly country any more.

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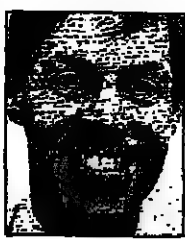
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Don Quixote

You are not alone — 24% of men suffer from impotence at age 50

What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

Matthew Parris



■ Politics with a giggle would increase the appeal of our parties more than any solemn conference

Conjure up the scene later this week. A low growl. A continuous base drone on the pedals of a massive wind organ: an expectant rumbling, full of... full of what? Hope or menace? A purple spotlight picks its target: a black space right at the centre of the dais — is it a pit? — flooding its edges in an eerie luminescence. Total hush descends upon the thousands assembled. No one knows what is happening.

Four trumpets blast a single note, and another, and another: a rising scale. This is the opening fanfare from Richard Strauss's *Also Sprach Zarathustra* — used in 2001: A Space Odyssey. Suddenly there is movement within the spotlight's circle. But what? The trumpets are joined by the rest of the brass and the fanfare rises to its first climax.

Labour delegates are amazed. Nothing like this has ever happened at the Winter Gardens before.

Then the great roll of the kettledrums. Something is taking shape. The organ itself is rising. In the purple glow we see a man's broad but hunched shoulders. He is at the keyboard, facing away from us.

In a rumble of drums, the first crescendo dies. Then those trumpets again. The second begins. Above the platform, as the brass blasts its fanfare, a vast screen flickers into purple life. On it, magnified, is that image at the keyboard. Who is it? Thousands strain to see.

Kettledrums roll a second time. Do we not recognise those shoulders, that hair, those ears? Is it...? Yes! It is Tony Blair! He lunges manically at the keyboard. The whole organ on its flying platform continues to rise, cowering above the podium.

Now comes the final fanfare. Trumpets, brass, strings, woodwind, the whole orchestra rides in. Tony Blair, hands still at the keys, swings his shoulders round to face us. The fanfare climaxes. A thousand necks crane up at the screen. He is wearing a devil mask!

There is a moment of shock. At the last great chord Mr Blair rips the mask from his face, shrugs, and smiles. The purple spot dies. Daylight floods the Winter Gardens. The entire conference bursts into laughter. "Sorry," he says. "It's only me."

Then I vote Labour. "Won't happen, not in a million years. Yet I reckon, that for this alone, a million people would switch their votes to Mr Blair: the under-25s for a start, with whom Labour is having a serious problem. This section of the electorate, whom the party must have thought it had sewn up, are feeling mightily alienated by the churchy gentility of new Labour."

Paradoxical though this may sound, the appeal of what Leo Abse's mad new book *Tony Blair and the Politics of Perversion* perceptively calls the "Regenerative myth" ("New Labour. New Britain. A Young Country. A country reborn... all that stuff) is to the middle-aged. By humour, he could reach the bit of Britain which, being young, is not interested in youth.

But it is not the young alone who would be impressed by evidence of a party leader who can make light of things. Many of us grow increasingly weary of the edginess and thin skin of our politicians. They just don't seem to be able to take it. Kenneth Clarke has only to feel the ladylike imprint of Anna Ford's elbow and Dr Mawhinney runs off squealing to John Birt. "Your Anna's bullied my Ken in the playground."

The Tories have only to unveil a couple of demon posters and Mr Blair yelps "Foul" and people scurry off to the Advertising Standards Authority to complain. Oh for a senior politician relaxed to laugh things off. To take an attack with good humour, besides demonstrating self-confidence, diminishes one's assailant. Were Mr Blair to make us laugh about that poster, we should be laughing not only at his joke and with him, but at the Tories. "How silly!" implies the joke. "Who do they think they're kidding?" If you greet an attack with a giggle, then far from looking juvenile you make your attacker look juvenile. The Tories would never be able to use the demon theme again.

So why don't they do it? Part of the answer, I fear, is down to us, the press. Just before he was dismissed after fuss about weekends in the Ritz, the minister Neil Hamilton, visiting a school, held up a biscuit and joked, "Perhaps I should have declared this."

I laughed. The press did not. So mindlessly obsessed have we become with "gaffes" and "bananaskins" that politicians have to be solemnly circumspect as they walk in fear of our headlines. Commentary has become dreadfully priggish, and a hawk-eyed sensoriousness is the order of the day. For senior politicians, every conference performance is rather like that pier-end game where you have to pass a metal ring all the way along a twisted wire without them touching — or a bell rings and you are disqualified. The equivalent of that bell is the shriek of "Gaffe!" from the press.

So with Mr Blair tomorrow and Mr Major next week, dignity will reign, the nervy, false dignity of the timid: po-mouthed and carrots up their bottoms. And, in numbers which increase with every decade, the nation switches off.

Miss Sanders's book goes by the title *The Colonel's Secret: Eleven Herbs and a Spicy Daughter*. It is likely to be read closely in Kentucky, which went into statewide mourning when Sanders died in 1980.

Such was his reputation at the time that he was hailed as the "preacher's friend", and the evangelist Billy Graham sent a personal message of sympathy. His body lay

Harland: spicy hero

America has yet to make up its mind about the presidential election, but doesn't like either candidate

What's the issue? It's Clinton, stupid

The United States is suffering from an economic boom but a political depression. The economy is still fine and has been in prolonged recovery since the last months of the Bush Administration. Wall Street is at record levels — probably too high — and unemployment is about half the European average. Yet there has seldom been more widespread anxiety about the future of America. There is no public enthusiasm for the presidential campaign or for either of the candidates. The 1992 joke is being recycled. What the ballot paper needs is a box saying: "None of the above."

Bob Dole has always been a poor campaigner. One can remember years of him slogging through the snows of New Hampshire in the Republican primaries, making incoherent speeches on unpopular themes, and alienating any voters unfortunate enough to meet him. Now that he is actually running for president, he is repeating his old primary form. He is, in any case, a full generation out of date, a Nixon Republican in the post-Reagan era. It is as though the Conservatives were going into the next election under Willie Whitelaw, and much less enjoyable.

However, the Republicans have two weapons with which to fight Bill Clinton. The first is money and the second is Bill Clinton. The money will be spent on an awesome scale. This will be the most expensive campaign in the history of the United States. In October the Republicans will be spending \$1 million on television advertising every day. There is something like \$80 million in the central campaign chest for the Congressional races. The money will probably not be enough to elect Bob Dole, but it probably will be enough to maintain the Republican majority

in both Houses of Congress. The balance of seats vacant and retirements is, in any case, favourable to the Republicans.

Bill Clinton has, so far, been well ahead in the polls, though in the latest CNN poll he has slipped to a 9 per cent lead, his lowest so far. The present poll situation may not be very important, since the American electorate has not yet engaged with the campaign. They do not know where the candidates stand on most issues; 40 per cent do not yet even know that Jack Kemp has been chosen as Dole's running mate. All that will change. In past elections, up to 40 per cent of voters have made their decisions in the last week.

There are two big issues about Bill Clinton. The first is whether he is a man of any character at all: the second, which obviously runs into the first, is whether he is any good at being President. Everyone admits that he is good at campaigning, and at that aspect of being President which has been termed the role of "Celebrity-in-Chief". The Republicans have been trying out character-attack television advertisements on panel audiences and are finding that they do not work. The American people accept that the President is a compulsive womaniser, that he probably did some crooked things as Governor of Arkansas, that he may have obstructed justice along the

way, that he has had some very unsavoury friends, but they do not want the Republicans to remind them of these things. *The New York Times* found a typical voter in Arizona, Steven Blackwell, "a burly young steelworker"; he is thinking of voting for Clinton, but says "he has no morals whatsoever". A President without morals and a campaign without issues is the menu for 1996.

William Rees-Mogg

Indeed, it is the White House which has inadvertently done the most to publicise the President's little problems. In December 1994, Jane Sherburne, who is the Assistant White House Counsel, thought she ought to list the charges against which she might have to defend the President. This turned into a 12-page "task list," starting with 39 accusations, which she neatly listed from "Foster document handling", through "obstruction of justice", noting three examples, through "Lasater (bond deals, cocaine, Roger Clinton)" to "women". In August of this year

this task list had to be handed over to the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, and from there it has reached the press.

Robert Bork, the nominee for the Supreme Court who was sandbagged by Teddy Kennedy, taught law at Yale to Bill and Hillary Clinton. He believes that this list of 39 articles includes material on which Hillary Clinton could be indicted and Bill Clinton could be impeached. Obstruction of justice is a felony. Bork will be voting for Dole.

At this stage the Republicans' decision is not to campaign on these character issues but on the presidential record. Bill Clinton is being accused of being "a closet liberal", to which he has absurdly replied that he is not, has not been and never will be a liberal.

The electorate is being reminded, and every American will hear this at least 50 times between now and polling day, that in 1992 Bill Clinton promised a middle-class tax cut and yet in 1993 put taxes up for everyone, by a total exceeding \$200 billion. There will also be attack advertisements on one powerful emotional issue, his recent veto of the Bill forbidding what are called "partial-birth abortions". This procedure takes late-term foetuses, at a stage when they might be viable as babies,

brings them to within a couple of minutes of actual birth, and then kills them by sucking out their brains. In law, if the baby has not emerged from the mother, that is abortion; if it has, it is murder. The advertisements will describe this gruesome procedure, and remind people that Bill Clinton overruled the majority in Congress who wanted to stop it.

It is said that the American electorate seldom worries about foreign affairs. That is not altogether true, since foreign affairs played a large part in presidential elections from the outbreak of the Second World War to the end of Vietnam, that is from 1940 to 1972. The Middle East has recently been dominating the television screens. There is a growing public feeling that Bill Clinton is too much of a compulsive conciliator to handle the brutal realities of world power. Americans admire toughness in a leader — Margaret Thatcher is the most popular British leader since Winston Churchill. Bill Clinton carries no handbag, even if Hillary does.

In yesterday's *Washington Post*, Jim Hoagland wrote a scathing column about the ineffectiveness of the President's policy towards Iraq, Palestine and Israel.

Self-induced blindness has made US policy on Iraq a mess, not "an unqualified success". The White House's denial of this — even to itself — disgusts middle-level officials within the Government who know what has happened. The crisis in Israel again found Clinton on the campaign trail, being briefed by fax and phone while his aides clung desperately to policy levers which no longer worked.

High taxes, flawed character, feebleness in foreign affairs, support for killing viable late-term babies, these issues give the Republicans something to work on. But I expect Bob Dole will muffle it again.

Labour's benefit cost analysis

Barbara Castle's battle with Harriet Harman is old hat, says Peter Riddell



The debate over Blairism always comes back to spending and taxes. Can a party of the Centre-Left reconcile financial respectability with radical aspirations? Many Labour activists, as well as Tory propagandists, believe the two are incompatible: that the repeated emphasis by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown on toughness when it comes to public spending is merely to win the election, and that they will behave differently in office, or be forced to do so.

But Mr Blair and Mr Brown mean what they say, however hard it may be to achieve. They have yet, however, to show how Labour would really make a difference in office without alarming taxpayers, business and the markets. That will be a central theme of Mr Blair's speech tomorrow.

The difficulty of finding the balance between restraint and expectation explains much of the recent discontent among Labour activists. The party's pre-manifesto, launched three months ago and debated this week, has so far not caught either the party's imagination or the public's. This carries the incidental risk that the subsequent ballot of Labour's members may be a flop because of low turnout.

The early pledges in the pre-manifesto — about tackling youth unemployment, cutting class sizes for infants, reducing hospital waiting lists, and taking tougher action on young offenders — have been criticised as being marginal and dubious, financed through one-off financial transfers. Some of the pledges — about young offenders and getting 250,000 people under 25 years old off benefit and into work or training — are ambitious and address growing social problems. But there are still

many doubts about raising money from a windfall levy on the privatised utilities.

The most important pledge is the fifth, which has been generally ignored: to "set tough rules for government spending and borrowing". These include curbs on the overall level of debt and the so-called golden rule for public spending, that over the economic cycle the Government will only borrow to invest and not to fund current spending. That commitment, also endorsed by the Treasury in the last Budget, would limit public borrowing to about 1 per cent of national income. Not only is this well below the Maastricht guidelines to do with qualifying for monetary union, but it is also less than a quarter of the current deficit. This is a very tight constraint, and if Labour means what it says, this would rule out any increase in overall spending if taxes are to be held down.

ironically, was an old foe of Barbara Castle in the battles over trade union law in the late 1960s. The statement approved yesterday by Labour's national executive officers a review but gives nothing away — stating that the party "can and will give no manifesto or other commitments on finance for any decisions that could only be made in the light of economic circumstances".

So the spending line has held — and the modernisers argue that resisting the promoters of universal provision is itself an achievement, given past commitments. Mr Brown will argue in his speech this afternoon that his tough approach is justified in its own terms and not solely for electoral reasons. Only through such restraint will it be possible to achieve financial stability and to take action to help young people and begin welfare reform. A first Brown Budget, proba-

Despite continued Tory attempts to find new Labour spending pledges, Mr Brown has succeeded in limiting most new commitments. That is really what the row over pensions is about. When it comes to helping poorer pensioners, Barbara Castle is wrong to urge an across-the-board increase, and Harriet Harman is right to suggest a more selective approach. Their dispute vividly symbolises the clash between "old" and "new" Labour, and Lady Castle's appeal to the party's heart may win the cheers during Wednesday's debate, since the conference always applauds old troopers.

However, a classic exercise in old Labour expediency has probably settled the vote. A deal has been worked out by Mr Brown and Jack Jones, the pensioners' leader (who,

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

But Labour has opposed most of these measures and has yet to offer plausible alternatives. In that sense, the real debate is not between Harriet Harman and Lady Castle — that is a battle of the past — but between Ms Harman and Peter Riddell, over how to create an affordable welfare state.

Labour has edged towards the principle of welfare (imposing obligations on those receiving unemployment benefit) and targeted benefits. But after the fierce criticism of the plan for reallocating child benefit for 16-to-18 year-olds, the party is reluctant to provoke more controversy, especially as the Tories are coy about tackling middle-class benefits. Any new government will have to seek more private financing of public services, as is already occurring in pensions and higher education.

Mr Blair is a genuine radical in his aims for a five-year parliament: making a start on welfare reform, improving educational standards, achieving a more positive relationship with Europe, creating a new partnership with business and beginning to roll back an over-centralised State. He believes Labour could make a difference, as the Conservatives implicitly acknowledge in their slogan "New Labour, New Danger". What he has yet to demonstrate convincingly is how Labour could fulfil these hopes within admittedly tight spending and tax constraints.

Game bird

IT seems that the late "Colonel" Harland Sanders, the bolo-tied founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken and epitome of Southern courtesies, was both a leg and a breast man. Thighs, too, if one is to believe a biography of the old lad by his daughter Margaret.

Miss Sanders, aged 86, has composed a candid memoir in



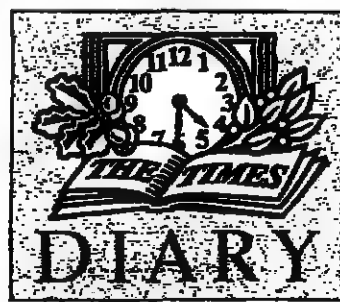
Harland: spicy hero

which she discloses that Col Sanders — whose title was an honorific — had a prodigious sexual appetite and kept a mistress. He succeeded in persuading his wife to hire the woman as a char. The suggestion led to domestic strife. "It was evident from the beginning that her presence would create turmoil," says Miss Sanders.

"Mother refused to accept that she alone could not satisfy father's physical needs, which from the very beginning of their marriage had seemed excessive to her," adds the daughter of the man who introduced the world to the saying "finger lickin' good". He later divorced his wife and took both her and his mistress to a presidential inauguration.

Miss Sanders's book goes by the title *The Colonel's Secret: Eleven Herbs and a Spicy Daughter*. It is likely to be read closely in Kentucky, which went into statewide mourning when Sanders died in 1980.

Such was his reputation at the time that he was hailed as the "preacher's friend", and the evangelist Billy Graham sent a personal message of sympathy. His body lay



in state and he was buried in his trademark double-breasted white suit — no doubt with the traces of a smile playing under his snowy moustache.

A Cracker

IN CRICKETING circles, Leslie Crowther's departure for the celestial pavilion is a terrible blow. The light entertainer and *Crackerjack* presenter was a stalwart: fervent supporter, charity side fundraiser and, though not especially distinguished at the crease, a telling player nevertheless.

As a former president of the Lord's Taverners — where he was succeeded by Prince Edward — Crowther was one of the first to be told of the death of Brian Johnston, the cake-eating commentator. "He

was understandably very upset," informs my source. "But I explained to him that Johnners would be a happy man now, forever able to watch cricket." Crowther seemed consoled. "But if there isn't a cricket ground on the other side," he said, "I'm not going."

Good press

AN UNEASY tension hung over base camp at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool yesterday morning. John Prescott was about to be interviewed by John Humphrys for the BBC's *On the Record*.



Prescott and Humphrys: a tense moment

The potential for error on the eve of the conference was playing havoc with new Labour's blood pressure. But there was no need to worry. John Prescott's performance was top-drawer. He ducked and dived, bobbed and weaved and managed to parry every Humphrys thrust.

Such was the relief after the interview that Tony Blair's office erupted into spontaneous applause. Minutes later, the champion himself shuffled into the office, grinning. The scene brought to mind a footballer mobbed and kissed by team-mates after scoring a winning goal.

Well guarded

AND WHILE Tony Blair was fretting yesterday about what John Prescott might say in his television interview, his constituency opponent for the general election was more concerned with domestic issues. Lizzy Noel, the Tory candidate for Sedgfield in Co Durham, was marrying Guardsman Henry Pitman in Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire.

Sitting in the family pew was the bridegroom's stepfather, Andrew Parker Bowles, whose ex-wife Camilla is so friendly with the Prince of Wales.



Lizzy and Henry: happy with a party of their own

Politics was thankfully not to the fore during the speeches, although one of the ladies confessed: "When she told us about the wedding, we knew it couldn't possibly be an October election. Lizzy would never have got married so close to an election."

● Diplomatic relations between the Treasury and the Foreign Office are at an all-time low on account of plans to build a new

Embassy in Berlin. The Treasury is insisting that the building be financed privately. The Foreign Office is quite appalled at the precedent. Frontrunners for the construction project appear to be Shira Yamamoto corporation, the unpopular Japanese outfit currently gutting County Hall, the former GLC building.

P.H.S



CONFERENCE DINOSAURS

Old activists still haunt new Labour's Blackpool halls

Like the tail-thrashings of a dying dinosaur, Labour activists and trade unionists meet in Blackpool this week to protest at a new world for which many of them are feebly adapted. Compared with most other aspects of the Labour Party, its conference is still unmodernised. It represents an opportunity to make the leadership sweat a little.

True, the trade unions' voting power has been cut progressively from 90 to 50 per cent. And in theory at least, trade union delegates are free to vote individually; in practice most unions vote as a bloc. Delegates from the constituency parties are not elected by one-member-one-vote. And they often arrive with their minds made up on each motion, having been mandated in advance by their general management committees.

In which case, why bother to hold debates? The votes have mainly been sewn up in squalid backroom deals. Delegates are not going to be swayed by argument. And anyway, given that, for many years pre-dating Tony Blair's arrival, the party leadership has taken scant notice of conference decisions, nothing is even gained by rebellion save the satisfaction of expressing discontent and the concomitant bad publicity.

But the dying throes will nonetheless be seen this week, not least from Baroness Castle, a Velociraptor so ancient that she can be dated back to the Wilson era. Her call for pensions to be linked to earnings again and for the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps) to be reinstated has not even the benefit of ideological rectitude. Poor pensioners already have their pensions topped up with income support. Lady Castle's proposals would benefit the wealthy old more than the impoverished.

But if delegates defeat the leadership on pensions or any of the other controversial

questions of the week, it will represent more of a protest at Mr Blair's culture and manner of leadership than an ideological battle. And some constituency activists have found the pace of change in the party too fast to stomach. All feel (probably mistakenly) that Labour's huge poll lead insulates them from the consequences of their actions.

Ironically, that very lead is a result of Mr Blair having moved as far and as fast as he has. The difficult decisions that he has taken may have made him unpopular with some factions in his party, but they have also brought Labour creakingly close to being a late 20th-century party at last. Each decision, though, has been a gamble: the risk being that public appreciation for his reforms would be overwhelmed by dismay at the internal divisions they create. Because he is so far ahead in the polls, Mr Blair has been able to take those risks.

The aim is not simply to win the election, but to increase the probability of good government afterwards. For the Labour leader is not going to make the parachutist's mistake: concentrating so hard on summoning up the nerve to jump that he realises only once airborne that he has been contemplating the wrong problem. Having studied previous administrations, Mr Blair must know that one of the main obstacles to taking tough decisions in a Labour government has been the party itself.

By getting his "betrayal" in first, he hopes to win the arguments now rather than then. Labour activists understand that which is why they see this week as their last chance to influence a possible Labour government. They also understand, however, that the apparent influence is illusory. No wonder they sense that the current climate is inhospitable to their survival.

NATO EXERCISE

The West must get its security priorities right again

Two years ago, war-ravaged Bosnia looked like the rock on which Nato could founder. But since the Dayton peace agreement and the deployment of the Nato-led Implementation Force (Ifor), Bosnia has become instead a safety valve for the alliance. The peace its presence has so far kept is almost secondary to the harmony that it has wrought within Nato and the lifeline of co-operation that it has kept open between Nato and Russia.

This was illustrated at the informal meeting of Nato defence ministers in Bergen last week. Russia's new defence minister, Igor Rodionov, reiterated Moscow's objections to Nato's plans for new members, which America insists must go ahead next year. But he enthused about Russian participation in a new force for Bosnia after Ifor's mandate expires this December.

The reason is obvious. In Ifor America has made good its promise that Russia will be central to "a security circle for all of Europe". But on Nato's expansion, nothing that America says about a special partnership can obscure, for Moscow, the fact that it is against Russia that the democracies of Central Europe want protection.

Nato is a military alliance, based on the exchange of absolute guarantees of mutual defence and an integrated military structure, which its creators intended to keep the US "in" Europe, Germany "down" and the Soviet Union "out". Nato has failed to convince Russia that this third mission has fallen into disuse; it has failed because no such explanation could be entirely honest. By pressing ahead with plans for a summit next year, at which "several" countries will be invited to start accession talks, Nato is walking into a confrontation with Russia that it cannot be certain of handling safely.

Nato members insist that they are politically ready for expansion, but it is far from clear that the alliance is financially and operationally ready. The absorption of new members will cost money — at a time when

national defence budgets are in steep decline, and nowhere steeper than in the countries seeking admission. It will also take time: and during the transition period, the credibility of Nato's Article 5 guarantee, which was contestable during the Cold War, will inevitably be weakened.

The Allies may be correct in their assessment that low credibility can be afforded at a time of low threat; but there remains the risk that threats could escalate faster than credibility. The most difficult problem of all is that the more successful Nato is at reinventing itself for this larger membership, the more this risks aggravating Russia's sense of isolation.

Hence, the Nato case that enlargement will enhance European security has not been convincingly made. Some officials in America are now toying with a radical solution to the Russian Question — an offer modelled on the 30-year period, now ending, during which France had full political membership of Nato without being part of the integrated military structure. But that has alarmed America's Nato partners and as it is not yet Washington policy, Moscow remains unconvinced.

All this makes little sense. If European governments are serious about enhancing the Continent's stability, they should be at least equally in haste to enlarge the European Union eastward. EU enlargement carries no risk of alienating Russia or increasing the vulnerability of the countries left in noman's land. Yet every light down that track is set at amber, if not red. Nato enlargement is a neat way of keeping the EU door shut. This is a policy of historic irresponsibility, outranking even the miserable fumbling while the Balkans drifted into war. The West is still recovering from that failure. It should think hard about the damage it will inflict on itself, let alone Poland, if it again, on a broader canvas, gets its security priorities back to front.

HISTORIC JOCKEY

To win seven races in an afternoon turns men into gods

A rare defining moment in sport took place on Ascot racecourse at the weekend. Frankie Dettori won all seven races in an afternoon. No half-legionary centaur, not even Lester Piggott or Sir Gordon Richards, has done that before. The odds against Dettori's achievement were at 25.05 to 1. By the seventh race, bookmakers tie-tacking (and flapping in other ways) had cut the odds on his unpromising seventh mount, Fujiyama Crest, from 12-1 to make it an improbable 2-1 favourite. Nevertheless, several modest punters still won £500,000 for a £20 stake, and a spokesman for William Hill declared it "the worst day in bookmaking history", with losses calculated at £18 million.

In terms of other sports this was the equivalent of a racing driver winning every race in the Grand Prix, a bowler taking ten wickets in an innings of a Test Match and then making a century, or a golfer scoring straight birdies in the final round of the Open, ending with a hole in one at the 18th. Most sport is by definition ephemeral, its triumphs and disasters forgotten by the following Saturday. That is the intense trivial pursuit of sport. But just a very few sporting occasions stick in the memory. England winning the World Cup against Germany in extra time, Botham's Test or Lara's score, Borg versus McEnroe in that nail-biting Wimbledon final, or Obolensky's try shimmying through the centre against New

Zealand in 1936. And gentlemen in England now abed think themselves accursed they were not there. If all those who claim to have been spectators when Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile had been there, the Ifley Road running-track would have had the capacity of Wembley Stadium.

And the weekend had the improbability of such great sporting records. Lanfranco Dettori comes from Italy not England. As first jockey for Sheikh Mohammed, he rides horses that winter with Godolphin in Dubai rather than in bracing Newmarket. Where other champion jockeys are professionally dignified or dour, Dettori is young, personable and articulate, and enjoys his work. A steward at Ascot asked him not to dismount in his flying ejector-seat style. But he did so anyway, and is the first person in racing to make his solemn employer show animation.

British racing is dour with professionalism. The "industry" begs for tax relief and other financial sops in order to survive. The horses are given peculiar names — especially when they fail to finish in the first three. But the feat of its new superstar hero brings the people's sport long-needed excitement and glamour. So he has galloped into that narrow track of sporting history, even for those short-sighted fools who bet nothing on his historic record. And yesterday, to restore the uncertainty principle of racing, Dettori won only one of his seven races.

Letters to the Editor

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Britain's decision on joining 'inevitable' single currency

From Sir Richard Faber

Sir, You say (leading article, September 24) that if Mr Kenneth Clarke were to go to the Cabinet he "would be less missed than he would like to think and little mourned". Why are you so sure of this?

We all know that he has opponents in the Conservative Party, both at Westminster and outside. But he also has supporters, who see in him some guarantee against the surrender of the party to anti-European dogmatism.

Of course there are dangers, as well as possible advantages, in a common European currency (letters, September 25, 26 and 27). We ought to have had a reasoned debate about them; but this has not been easy in the prevailing political turmoil. Whatever the conclusions of such a debate might have been, we seem currently to have little power to influence the decisions of our main European partners.

By now it is apparently not so much a question of whether or not a common European currency is a good thing. It is whether, if there is one, we can afford to stay out of it. If not, it must surely be in our interest to join sooner rather than later.

We are fearful of losing national sovereignty. But for centuries we have regarded our sovereignty as threatened, or at least circumscribed, when there has been a dominant power on the continent of Europe beyond our effective influence or control.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FABER,
De l'Angle House, The Green,
Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
September 24.

From the Editor of New European

Sir, There is one way in which Cabinet unity could be restored on the question of a single currency: the Government should go back to John Major's original proposal to create a hard coin as a common currency. I know both Euro-sceptics and genuine federalists who would be happy with that arrangement.

A hard coin would leave business people and people on holiday with a handy currency to use for European transactions. No one need be locked into it — and we know the dangers of being locked in. It would also make it much easier to bring the East European countries into the Union.

When I suggested this to Sir Leon

Brittan some 18 months ago he rejected it on the grounds that it would create yet another currency. Of course that is true; but it would also eliminate a high proportion of currency exchanges within the European Union and give the stability which businesses so desperately need.

The only purpose behind an imposed single currency is political and the creation of a centralised European state. I'm sure that if we had stuck to our guns the rest of Europe would be thanking us by now. It is still not too late.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COLEMAN,
Editor, New European,
14-16 Carroun Road, SW8,
September 26.

From Mr B. D. Mooney

Sir, Your editorial on economic and monetary union, "Nothing straight" (September 26), raises some interesting points.

As the convergence (qualification) criteria are laid down in the Maastricht treaty they can only be changed through a unanimous vote by member states. The potential "blocking minority" you mention would apply to a decision by the Council of Ministers on which states had met these criteria at the end of 1997. They will decide on the basis of statistics provided by the Commission, who are unlikely to "fudge" the figures to stop a state qualifying.

As Anatole Kaletsky has repeatedly pointed out in your columns, there is an immense momentum for EMU within Europe's political elites, even in the face of fierce public opposition. The United Kingdom and Denmark only have a partial opt-out from this process, and all 15 member states are treaty-bound not to oppose it. Even if EMU would cause political problems at home, the most that a state without an exemption can hope for is a temporary stay of execution ("derogation").

The European Court of Justice may hold the key to what happens. If any state had the temerity to suggest raising the stakes to deter qualification, the court could rule it out of order. Similarly, Germany's "constitutional" opt-out, declared at Karlsruhe in 1993, could be overturned, since legal precedent dating back to 1970 makes Community law supreme (case 11/70).

Church music

From the Reverend K. W. Clinch

Sir, I think your correspondent Mrs Linda Brooke (September 20; see also letters, September 12, 16, 23, 25) is less than fair to church organists. I see their role as being much more than providing musical accompaniment.

Music can be, and is in many churches, used to "set the scene", as it were. In the days when I was a parish priest I often told my people what I was taught at Sunday school many years ago: "Before the service, talk to God. During the service, let God talk to you. After the service, talk with your friends."

Too many congregations ignore this these days, but a sensitive organist, with appropriate music, can encourage a prayerful silence on the part of a congregation before the service.

Having said that, however, I have to admit that I have heard many post-service voluntaries of such exuberance that "talking with friends" is out of the question.

Yours faithfully,
K. W. CLINCH,
Brace Cottage,
193 Hastings Road,
Bath, East Sussex.
September 25.

From Professor Irving S. Benjamin

Sir, The practice of playing popular tunes in the guise of organ voluntaries did not end with Mrs Whitworth's great-aunt's generation (letter, September 23).

In the 1960s I played guitar in a trio which did the rounds of church socials, dances, etc. The pianist in the group was also our assistant church organist, and it was his habit to disguise current hit tunes in this manner, to the great amusement of those of us in the choir stalls who were in the know and could enjoy a game of "spot the tune".

My clearest memory is of his rendition of *Telstar*, the Tornados' hit single of 1962, as a baroque toccata. Several members of the congregation who had listened with great attention, but no recognition, approached him after the service to congratulate him and ask who the composer was to which he replied that it was a little-known contemporary of J. S. Bach.

Yours sincerely,
IRVING S. BENJAMIN,
16 Denmark Road, Ealing, W13,
September 24.

From Mr James Macmillan

Sir, At High Mass at Ampleforth Abbey in the late 1950s a young monk played *She Wore Red Feathers* and a *Hula-Hula Skirt*.

Johann Sebastian himself, if alive, might have thought it was his; the abbot, rumour had it, did. Certainly the young monk was still at the organ the following Sunday.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MACMILLAN,
Curling Tye Cottage,
Woodham Walter, Maldon, Essex.
September 25.

Bhutto's commitment to democracy

From Mr Gerald Howarth

Sir, In his report about Pakistan your South Asia correspondent, Christopher Thomas, says of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that "No elected leader has been more unpopular since the state was founded in 1947" (September 24; see also report and leading article, September 25). This is a sweeping generalisation. All governments tend to be unpopular mid-term, especially if they have the courage to forgo short-term popularity to pursue major economic and social reforms of the kind which Benazir Bhutto is undertaking.

The far-reaching tax reforms that she has introduced are undoubtedly unpopular, but they are essential if Pakistan is to receive the support it requires from the IMF and the World Bank.

Miss Bhutto's campaign for — and commitment to — democracy is, in my opinion, undiminished. However, her Government has had to take tough measures to deal with violence (encouraged in part by opponents in London), which threatens the country's trade and commerce and hence the livelihood of its people.

Trial by jury

From Mr Robert Lyons

Sir, Peter Binning's article, "Are juries essential?" (Law, September 24), suggests that the main issues at stake are ones of technical expertise in decision-making and of expediency for the defendant. Whatever happened to the view that the jury represented an important independent element in the judicial process?

In a jury trial, the prosecution must establish its case beyond reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of 12 individuals who have no personal interest in the justice system. As such, the trial is made a more open and fairer process: it is not simply a "rubber-stamping" of some predetermined view. Blackstone's point that the jury is a "bulwark against tyranny" remains true.

Much of the discussion about the Maxwell trial (letters, September 21, 26) has assumed that the jury were too stupid to understand the case before them. In reality, after listening for months to the evidence, I believe that they were better placed than anyone to assess the guilt or innocence of the defendants. Yet, many now have a low view of the capacity of their peers to judge them.

I regard the fact that only about 1 per cent of criminal cases in England and Wales are now heard by juries as a major erosion of a basic freedom, and I would argue that the jury is a necessary, if not a sufficient, means to ensure justice.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LYONS
(freedom convener),
Freedom and Law,
c/o PO Box 7, 64 Goudge Street, W1,
September 26.

All evidence shows that monetary union will proceed in some form in 1999 — even if only Ireland and Luxembourg initially qualify.

Yours faithfully,
B. MOONEY
(Marketing Director),
Innovations Ltd,
30 Langthorne Street, SW6,
September 27.

From Mr David Hurford-Jones

Sir, Mrs Patricia Perry (letter, September 27), secretary of the Charlbury branch of the West Oxfordshire Conservative Association, supports your leader of September 24, "Clarke can go", and states that "most people" support her Euro-sceptic opinions.

On the other hand, I am chairman of the Burford branch of the same association and I strongly oppose her view. I would say that on our executive council most people do not support her group, but it is true that they take up about 70 per cent of our time with this one issue. This seems to be reflected nationally, which is a disaster for the party.

Having been deeply involved in international business for 30 years and having for example spent two days the week before last in Germany, three days last week in Belgium and three days this week in France, I believe that my views are based on first-hand knowledge.

So who represents "the majority"? And anyway is the majority always correct, or should the leaders of the political parties be leading?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HURFORD-JONES,
The Old Manor House,
Shilton, Burford, Oxfordshire,
September 27.

From Professor Peter Rice-Evans

Sir, Whatever Churchill said in 1946 about the European Union (letters, September 20 and 25), the question is what would he advise today in the absence of a British Empire?

Would he advocate being a fully participating member of a great European enterprise or would he prefer a negligible Little England (Scotland will follow Ireland) sandwiched between the USA and the USSR?

Yours faithfully,
PETER RICE-EVANS,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1,
September 25.

When the train took the strain

From Mr Andrew Dow

Sir, Your leading article, "Myth and steam" (September 25), was less than fair to the old LNER. Its entrepreneurial skills led to a six-hour, non-stop service between London and Edinburgh in 1937, with the smooth ride of articulated carriages, superb catering and the attractions of an observation saloon.

The LNER offered hairdressing salons, on-board radio reception, cinema cars, secretarial services and showers in sleeping cars. It pioneered longer rails to eliminate bumpy joints and introduced forced-air ventilation, the precursor of air conditioning, so that windows need not be open through smoky tunnels.

The *Flying Scotsman*, *Coronation* and *The Silver Jubilee* trains were the epitome of luxury transport. In pre-war days, air and road services were, by comparison, execrable. The LNER showed the others the way.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW DOW (Head,
National Railway Museum, 1992-94),
Sycamore House, Station Lane,
Shipton-Bellington, York,
September 25.

From Mr B. D. J. Walsh

Sir, The times-table for 1939 show that one could travel from London to Edinburgh in considerably less than the eight hours you allege. The *Coronation* took six hours from King's Cross, maintaining an average speed of 71.9 mph over the whole distance between London and York, which necessitated at least 90 mph over the faster portions of the line. Trains between London and Newcastle, Leeds and Bradford averaged between 60 and 67 mph over the whole journey.

These trains served meals and refreshments throughout the journey, whereas now buffet cars are closed at intervals. The *Coronation* had an observation car, *The Flying Scotsman* a ladies' retiring room, and the seats were much more comfortable than some of those available now.

The service is more frequent and faster than it was, but one should expect some improvement over more than 50 years.

Yours faithfully,
B. D. J. WALSH (President,
The Railway Club, 1982-94),
The Old Rectory,
Burgate, Diss, Norfolk,
September 25.

From Mr W. J. Alcock

Sir, By the late 1930s the summer non-stop *Flying Scotsman* was taking only seven hours on a journey which might arguably have been described as romantic.

During and after the war the time had expanded to 8½ hours, often more because of late running. At this period the train was often 20 or more coaches long and the journey hardly romantic.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ALCOCK,
St Andrew,
Midhurst Road, Haslemere, Surrey,
September 25.

From Mr Harry Scotting

Sir, The steam engine *Flying Scotsman* is not lying boxed in pieces. It has been carefully stripped down, its parts being thoroughly reconditioned, and last week I witnessed a devoted team re-tying the front bogie wheels.

Pullman carriages are also being fully restored and there are plans to run a "real" *Flying Scotsman* train.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY SCOTTING,
Harry Scotting Photography,
1-5 Midford Place, W1,
September 25.

Not guilty

From Mr Tony Wilmot

Sir, Lynne Truss, in her television review of September 24, writes of "Bodkin Adams, the infamous doctor who murdered a patient for the money". He may well have done just that, but in fact he was famously acquitted of the charge at the Old Bailey — and later won substantial damages from the many newspapers which had presumed his guilt in print.

Happily for you and Miss Truss, Adams died in 1983.

Yours sincerely,
A. WILMOT (Member,
Crime Writers' Association),
3 Lansdowne Court,
1 Lansdowne Road, SW20,
September 24.

Dress code

From Dr A. Freedman

Sir, We elderly gents are frequently guilty of carelessness in our dress. On one such occasion recently a friend said to me "XYZ", a remark which totally baffled me. The explanation was "Examine your zip".

I suspect this is a private family code as neither I nor my immediate acquaintance have heard it before. It seems an admirably concise and gentle way of absolving the sins of senility, which I commend to your readers, unless, of course, they know of a better.

Yours truly,
ARNOLD FREEDMAN,
5 Chadlington Road, Oxford,
September 27.

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Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

LESLIE CROWTHER

Leslie Crowther, CBE, actor and comedian, died on September 28 of heart failure aged 63. He was born in Nottingham on February 6, 1933.

A generation grew up laughing at Leslie Crowther's jokes. He was a firmly established star of television for more than 30 years, but he will be best remembered for his long run with the popular children's programme *Crackerjack* in the 1960s. It turned him, as he once self-mockingly put it, into a modern Pied Piper. Wherever he went, children would follow, waiting for him to perform his well-known trick of raising his "double-jointed" eyebrows, which guaranteed shrieks of laughter.

He joined the programme in 1960, delighting the millions of young viewers with his antics and his cheeky baiting of the show's host, Eamonn Andrews. He took over from Andrews as anchorman four years later.

Crowther, who was to have five of his own, instinctively knew what made children laugh. He was the perfect prankster, his expressive face like some naughty school-boy's, and his infectious giggle never far away.

His lively comedy was broad without being vulgar, and he scored an equal success with adult viewers when he moved on to become one of the stars in the long-running *Black and White Minstrel Show*. A classically-trained pianist, he regularly played with another of the show's stars, comedian and jazz trombonist George Chisholm, in foot-about musical numbers.

However, after *Crackerjack* his biggest television success was as game show host of the runaway 1980s hit *The Price Is Right*, in which he coined his best-known catchphrase, "Come on down". He later went on to present a popular television talent show, *Stars in their Eyes*.

On *The Price Is Right*, Crowther's ability to coax people into making utter idiots of themselves in order to win a new bedroom suite or deep-freeze became almost legendary. Critics mocked the show with accusations of avarice and unsustainability, but it never worried the host — nor the 13 million viewers.

Tall and darkly handsome — he later regularly had his hair dyed to keep himself looking young, as he cheerfully admitted — he became the housewives' favourite. Many



of those housewives had been fans of *Crackerjack* as girls.

Determined to broaden his range to include comedy acting, Crowther also starred in situation comedies, such as the successful *My Good Woman*, with Sylvia Syms, and the less successful *The Reluctant Romeo*, with Eunice Gayson. He had several of his own series in the 1970s, among them *The Saturday Crowd*, *Crowther's In Town* and *The Leslie Crowther Show*.

His years at the top, on the stage as well as radio and television, made him wealthy. At his peak he was reputed to be earning £300,000 annually from his showbusiness work and another £40,000 a year from his enduring television commercial for margarine, in which he challenged tasters to tell it from butter.

He and his wife Jean developed a love of antiques, and they regularly drove to auctions in his Rolls-Royce looking for new pieces to add to their collection. He would refer to his Georgian mansion near Bath as being

more like the Victoria and Albert Museum than the family home. When he was featured as a "victim" on television's *This Is Your Life*, the host Eamonn Andrews stepped out of a sedan chair at an antiques exhibition to confront Crowther with the famous red book containing his life story.

Leslie Douglas Sargent Crowther, an only child, was born in West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, of parents who were both in showbusiness. His mother was a stage manager and director and his father a character actor and comedian, although he later retired from the stage to work in the post office. The family moved to London so that Crowther could study piano after he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music.

The parents saw their son act in a play at Thames Valley Grammar School, decided he was a natural exhibitionist, and sent him to drama school, where he met fellow student Jean Stone. They worked together as Jean and Leslie in

the once popular *Ovaltines* radio programme: the couple were married in 1954. Crowther's first job after graduation was as a spear carrier in doublet and hose at the Open Air Theatre in London's Regent's Park, followed by another radio show called *Accent on Youth*.

Then came years of steady work touring with the Fol-de-Rols concert party, which featured the likes of Arthur Askey and Jack Warner, and where Crowther acquired the skills which turned him into the reliable all-round performer he became, able to sing, dance and be funny. The experience proved, as he would often observe, a sound basis for his radio and television success, as well as the stage and cabaret circuit.

For a man who seemed to be a naturally amiable optimist with a gift for quick-fire humour, he had more than his share of sadness and setbacks in his private life, occasionally finding himself in the headlines for unhappy reasons.

One such occasion was

when his daughter Caroline's marriage to the late Thin Lizzy rock star Phil Lynott broke up because of Lynott's drug addiction. Crowther himself confessed to becoming at one time a "binge drinker", largely because of the pressure of his workload. He entered a drying-out clinic and was able to give up drinking and a heavy smoking habit completely.

Following the death of Lynott, Crowther strongly condemned what he called the "mindless killers" who peddle drugs. He worked prodigiously for charity and would attend as many as four functions a week. Only if he thought an organisation could afford it would he charge a fee, which would in turn go to one of his own favourite charities, usually linked with the Lord's Taverners, of which he was a former president. In 1993 he was appointed CBE for his charity work.

His favourite interests outside of showbusiness were cricket — playing and watching — and adding to two of his valuable collections: Victorian

pot lids that once covered products ranging from tooth powder to meat paste, and the *Vanity Fair* series of cricketing cartoons by Spy.

His absorption with cricket bordered on the fanatical; he even bought himself a flat overlooking Lord's. Referring to his playing days, he coined his own cricketing epitaph: "Good catcher, shame about the batting".

Leslie Crowther, who could look almost scholarly in the heavy-rimmed spectacles he wore off-screen, recognised that he was in a bitchy profession — as he wryly remarked, some people would ensure that you never missed reading a bad review about yourself. Yet he remained popular and well respected as a hard-working professional, with many close friends in the business.

He regularly starred in pantomime and summer seasons, and in the stage version of the *Black and White Minstrels* at London's Victoria Palace. He once recalled a chilling experience when he forgot the punchline to a joke while appearing before the Queen Mother at the Royal Variety Performance: "I just turned towards her and said, 'Wouldn't it be a better idea to play the piano instead of finishing the story?'"

He wrote many of his own scripts, devising jokes while driving to his next engagement. He estimated 25 miles to one good joke. As a funnymen he was a realist. He once said: "If you're over-tired, doing your act automatically, or you are under-rehearsed, it shows. I've watched my failures and I don't like it. You keep on working if you want things to stay good."

It was while he was driving to a charity appearance in 1992 that Crowther's career nearly came to an end, when his Rolls-Royce overturned on the M5 near Cheltenham. He had two hours of surgery to remove a blood clot and lay in a coma for 17 days. Survival seemed unlikely, but he eventually struggled towards recovery.

In 1994, however, aware that he could no longer meet his own high standards as a performer, he announced his retirement from showbusiness and his intention to spend more time on writing after the publication of his autobiography, *The Bonus of Laughter*. "There will be no more 'Come on down's', he said. "I suppose you could say I'm hanging up my *Crackerjack* pen."

His wife, son and four daughters survive him.

NICO COLCHESTER

Nicholas Colchester, OBE, journalist, died of a heart attack on September 25 aged 49. He was born on December 30, 1946.

A BRILLIANT financial journalist, and the man who turned the *Mars Bar* into a latter-day version of the gold standard, Nico Colchester never quite found an editorial position commensurate with his talents. After 18 successful years at the *Financial Times*, he was beaten to the post of deputy editor — which at the *FT* was seen as an essential step on the way to the editorship — by his friend Richard Lambert. Then, at *The Economist*, which he joined in 1986 and where he was deputy editor from 1989, he failed to succeed to the top job when Rupert Pennant-Rea left to become Deputy Governor of the Bank of England in 1993. At the time of his sudden death, while out training for a charity marathon in New York, he was editorial director of the *Economist* Intelligence Unit, a job he did well and which he enjoyed, but one rather different from the two more public posts on which he had earlier set his sights.

The son of the Rev Halsey Colchester — probably the only career officer of the Secret Intelligence Service to become, on retirement, a clergyman of the Church of England — Nicholas Benedict Sparrow Colchester was educated at Radley and at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he read Engineering and Economics and learnt to fly.

He joined the *Financial Times* direct from Oxford in 1968, after writing a test piece about the state of British Leyland and surviving an interview with the formidable editor, Sir Gordon Newton. Colchester thought he was being employed to write about technology, but on arrival found himself assigned instead to corporate finance. He thrived at the *FT*, writing with easy authority on a wide range of topics. Key foreign postings followed: first to the paper's New York office, in 1970; then, in 1974, to Bonn.

In 1977 he returned to the *FT*'s London office as financial news editor, and played an important part in the development of foreign market coverage which followed the decision to print a European edition of the paper in Frankfurt. He was able to consolidate this work when he became foreign editor in 1981. Over the next five years he showed himself to be an able administrator, increasing edi-

torial efficiency while boosting the quality of the paper's specialist foreign reporting.

Colchester's own writing during these years combined serious research and considered judgment with a lightness of touch not common in financial journalism. It was at the *FT*, for instance, that he discovered in the *Mars Bar* an effective index of inflation, its changes in size and weight ensuring that its value remained constant even in times of rising prices.

In 1986, on the retirement of M.H. "Freddie" Fisher, Geoffrey Owen moved into the *FT* editor's chair. Disappointed at not being appointed to Owen's old post of deputy, Colchester joined *The Economist*, eventually becoming deputy editor to Rupert Pennant-Rea in 1989.

When Pennant-Rea returned to the Bank of England as Deputy Governor in 1993,



Colchester hoped to succeed him as editor. In the end, he was one of two serious candidates; but it was the other, Bill Emmott, who got the job. Colchester moved on to the *Economist* Intelligence Unit, overseeing its extensive output of reports on international political and economic developments. It was a task he found both demanding and rewarding, and it went some way to compensate for those earlier disappointments.

In the *Economist*'s editorial policy Colchester had found and helped to develop a congenial mix of market economics and pragmatically pro-European thinking. Impatient with Euro-scepticism, he was the co-author of *Europe Re-launched* (1990), and was appointed OBE in 1993 for his writing on the development of the European Union. He was also a Chevalier of the French Order of Merit, and spent part of each year in a much-loved second home in France.

He married in 1976 and is survived by his wife, Laurence Schloessing, and two sons.

PROFESSOR STUART PIGGOTT

Stuart Piggott, CBE, FBA, Abercromby Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology at Edinburgh 1946-1972, died on September 23, aged 86. He was born on May 28, 1910.

STUART PIGGOTT was notable for many things, among them having never taken an undergraduate degree and having been elected to the Abercromby Chair at Edinburgh before obtaining a graduate one. He had worked his way up in British archaeology from being a professional draughtsman to become one of the acknowledged experts on the later prehistory of Europe, and was also an early exponent of the historiography of archaeology.

Piggott's charm and early enthusiasm for prehistoric archaeology attracted the support of established figures such as O.G.S. Crawford, founder of *Antiquity*, and Harold Peake, the leading amateur and author, and he was able to join the staff of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments for Wales.

For five years he gained experience in surveying and recording a wide range of

antiquities, and then in 1934 was recruited by Alexander Keiller, the marmalade maker and another distinguished amateur of archaeology, to be Assistant Director of his Morven Institute of Archaeology based at Avebury Manor in Wiltshire. Keiller carried out extensive excavations on the Avebury stone circles and nearby monuments.

Stuart Piggott had already published a dozen papers in professional journals, including several of national standing, before he was 20, and his study of the Neolithic pottery of the British Isles in the *Archaeological Journal* for 1931 was a seminal work from which ultimately stemmed his major book on *The Neolithic cultures of the British Isles* (1954).

By the time he joined the Army on the outbreak of war, Piggott had more than 70 publications, most of them papers on British neolithic sites and especially their pottery, to his credit; that on *The Early Bronze Age in Wessex*, with its throwaway suggestion of Mycenaean influence on prehistoric Wessex, had a wholly unexpected persistence in its impact.

Joining up in the ranks,

Piggott was soon commissioned and transferred to aerial photo interpretation, but for the first part of the war he was based in southern England and continued to do fieldwork at Ram's Hill (in collaboration with his wife Margaret, née Preston, subsequently Gujdo, a childless marriage later dissolved).

In 1942 he was posted to India, where he served under the late Glyn Daniel and later evaded an invitation to work with Mortimer Wheeler, newly appointed Director-General of Archaeology. Piggott ended up in charge of military air-photographic intelligence for South-East Asia, and also assembled the material for two books, *Some Ancient Cities of India* (1946) and *Prehistoric India* (1950), the latter a pioneering synthesis.

On returning to England he went up to St John's College, Oxford to take a B.Litt; his thesis on the 18th-century antiquary William Stukeley was published in 1950 (and revised in 1985). At the same time, he was invited to succeed V. Gordon Childe as Abercromby Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology at Edinburgh, a post he held until his retirement in 1977; the university



conferred an honorary Litt.D. on him in 1984. He had already received an honorary degree from Columbia University (1954) and been elected to the British Academy (1953), and from 1968-74 was a trustee of the British Museum.

Although he undertook a

certain amount of excavation in Scotland, for example at Cairnapple Hill and the Dailidies Long Barrow, and published a popular book, *Scotland Before History* (1958), Piggott was always happiest working in his native Wessex.

In partnership with Professor Richard Atkinson he undertook major excavations on three key Neolithic sites: Stonehenge, and two megalithic tombs, Wayland's Smithy and the West Kennet Long Barrow. The West Kennet report, which appeared in 1963, was a good example of Piggott's abilities as excavator, draughtsman and author.

His interest in the history of archaeology, begun with Stukeley, continued with a study of William Camden and the *Britannia* (1951) and a number of papers on antiquarian thought later collected in *Ruins in a Landscape* (1977). His book on *The Druids* (1968) took an historiographical approach to a problem of protohistoric contact, and his work in this field reached fruition in *Ancient Britons and the Antiquarian Imagination* (1989), which portrayed all archaeology prior to the 19th century as casual and sporadic. In contrast to the school of thought which saw a clear intellectual progression from the Renaissance onwards.

Piggott's interest in later prehistory extended into Europe, where his breadth of

knowledge was second only to that of Childe. *Ancient Europe* (1965) was a masterly survey of the archaeological evidence "from the beginnings of agriculture to Classical antiquity", and was followed in 1983 by *The First Wheeled Vehicles*, developed out of a 1968 paper for the Prehistoric Society and bringing to Western notice the important early carts and wagons from the Caucasus. A subsequent paper compared early Caucasian chariots with those in China.

His early scepticism about the utility of radiocarbon dating in archaeology soon gave way to both acceptance and a sophisticated use of the chronologies that emerged. He fostered interdisciplinary symposia, and was joint organiser of the Royal Society/British Academy meeting on "The place of astronomy in the ancient world" in 1973.

In the 1950s and early 1960s archaeology became a popular craze with such television programmes as *Animal Vegetables Minerals*, and Stuart Piggott was a naturally articulate communicator. Together with the late Glyn Daniel he launched several series of popular books, and edited *The*

Dawn of Civilization (1961), the first large-format colour volume to treat this subject in a serious but accessible manner.

Approach to Archaeology (1965) was an introduction to the discipline for the teenager and interested adult, and showed what archaeologists did and why. Unlike many of his colleagues, Stuart Piggott was happily productive outside archaeology: his poems *Fire Among the Ruins 1942-1945* were followed by contributions to *Modern Verse 1900-1950* and by translations of some of Martial's epigrams for Michael Grant's *Roman Readings*.

He was a gregarious, unassuming and hospitable man, and the range of his friendships can be essayed from the Festschrift, offered on his sixty-fifth birthday *To Illustrate The Monuments* (1976), which included a frontispiece by John Piper (of the megalithic tomb of Pentre Ifan in Dyfed), a dedicatory poem by John Betjeman, then Poet Laureate, and "I'm glad that I survive to greet you, Stuart, now you're sixty-five", and papers from both sides of the Iron Curtain and the Atlantic.

Latest wills

Karl Heinz Abel, of Sherstone, Lichfield, Staffordshire, left estate valued at £1,138,784 net.

Nancy Helen Henagolph, of Wokingham, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,189,715 net. She left her residuary estate to be divided into 10 equal shares to the following: Guide Dogs for the Blind, Blue Cross, RNLI, Made Caring Memorial Foundation, National Deaf Children's Society, Woodland Trust, RSPB and the World Wildlife Fund — UK.

Barry James Cameron Small, of Shorthedge, Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,055,482 net.

Derek Herbert Wright, dental surgeon, of Watford, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,264,712 net. He left £1,000 each to RSPCA, NPCC, Salvation Army, Save the Children and the Cats' Protection League.

Margaret Joan Hammond, of Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, left estate valued at £1,082,186 net. She left £1,000 to the Donkey Sanctuary, Slidmouth.

Douglas George Ansell, of Salden, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,177,891 net. He left £1,000 to St Nicholas Church, Salden; £200 to WARD/PLAN Delhi and Alzheimer's Disease Society; £100 to Cancer Research Fund, SSAFE, Not Forgotten Association, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, Action for Blind People, Coppercliff Hospice and the RNLI.

Edgar George Brassington, of Sandstead, Surrey, left estate valued at £4,208,069 net. He left £1,000 each to the Children's Society, Barnardo's, Greater London Fund for the Blind, British Home and Hospital for Incurables and Arthritis Care; and £10,000 to the Cancer Research Campaign.

Brian Andrew Conder Whitmore, of Shipdon under Wychwood, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,118,729 net.

Joan Veronica Broome, of Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £4,333,771 net. She left £200,000 to Turner Court, Henley, Oxfordshire; £100,000 to the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, for cancer research.

£100,000 to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council and the RSPCA; £1,000 each to St Bartholomew's Church, Nettleden, and the Nettleden Sports Association; and £2,500 to the Disabled Living Foundation. From the sale of her property not already disposed of to be equally shared between the Sue Ryder Foundation, British Red Cross Society, Shelter, the Samaritans and Age Concern.

Kenneth William Silk, of Bramdean, Alresford, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,907,048 net. Esme Evelyn Hill, of Sevenoaks, Kent, left estate valued at £3,609,740 net.

Rachel Schottlander, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,101,225 net.

David Kuzman, of London W14, left estate valued at £1,307,574 net.

Valerie Mable Golding, of Burwell, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £977,320 net.

Maureen Elizabeth Jane Gaskell, of Dinas Powis, South Glamorgan, left estate valued at £955,583 net.

START OF NEW B.B.C. PROGRAMME

From Our Broadcasting Correspondent
Another stage in the progress of broadcasting was reached yesterday when the Third Programme became part of the B.B.C. Home Service, thus providing listeners in this country with three contrasting programmes from which to choose their evening's entertainment — a choice wider than any other European broadcasting organization has offered its listeners on the medium wave-band. Since the programme is being radiated by a large number of low-power transmitters in the more densely populated parts of the country, reception was "patchy," and in certain areas unobtainable; but where it was heard in adequate strength the musical quality of reproduction was exceedingly good. In those less-fortunate areas which were to have been covered by the main transmission on 514.6 metres had it not been necessary to reduce the power of the Droitwich station because of interference on that wave-length from "Soviet-Lavia," the BBC hopes soon to provide additional local transmitters so as to bring the Third Programme within reach of the great majority who would wish to hear it... Sir William Haley, Director General of the

ON THIS DAY

September 30, 1946

The Third Programme was the concept of Sir William Haley, who saw it as providing the best in music and the spoken word. That it fulfilled that purpose was due in no small part to Sir George Barnes, its first Controller. Sir William was Editor of *The Times* 1932-66.

B.B.C., in an introductory talk on the new programme, said that if the principle behind it were right, it might become one of the most significant steps in the development of broadcasting. "It must not always be playing safe," he said, "it must reflect the world of living as well as dead artists, and stimulate the living as well as sustain the old. It must have the help of the creative artists of to-day." There had been expressed that the Third Programme would mean the segregation of all cultural material within it and the elimination of much that was worth-while from the existing services. That was not their intention. The three programmes would fit into each other.

At this, the first Cannes Festival, British prestige was upheld by Brief Encounter

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

From Our Special Correspondent

CANNES, Sept 28
For a week now the high and handsome cinema in the municipal casino has echoed to the babel of languages, and jury and critics are halfway through a marathon of physical endurance and mental strains. There are two sessions daily, and though the arrangements in general are magnificent in their taste and amplitude there is a tendency for them to break down over detail. Punctuality seems an unattainable virtue. The conscientious cinema goers are in the cinema, with a short break for dinner, from 3 in the afternoon until nearly 2 in the morning. The eye is surfeited with image and the ear is debilitated by the ceaseless assault upon it. Nevertheless, much of interest has already fought its way free of the confusion. The British screen has evolved for itself a competent pattern of pseudo-realism, a pattern which encourages insularity, and it is healthy to realize how limited its formulas are. France, so far as artistic achievement is concerned, is well in the lead.

The 10th Viscount Boyle, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, Director, National Westminster Bank, 1970-80, Chairman of Ludlow Race Club 1987, left estate valued at £1,881,125 net. He left to each person employed on the Burwarren Peaton and Baysdale Estates Company or by the trustees of any of his family trusts employed for not less than one year the sum of £300; £500 to the Hospital of St John Jerusalem of St John's Gate, London; £2,000 to St John's Council in Shropshire.

Richard Anthony Bethell, former Lord-Lieutenant of Humberside, of Long Riston, East Yorkshire, left estate valued at £995,342 net.

Barbara Aileen Page, of Surbiton, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,068,468 net.

She left £1,000 to the British Red Cross Society, £5,000 to the Donkey Protection Trust, Slidmouth; her residuary estate to be divided into four equal shares, three for Battersea Dogs' Home and one for the RNLI.

John Stanley Bishop, of Farnham Royal, Slough, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,154,316 net.

Howard Waller, of Linwood, Ringwood, Hampshire, left estate valued at £984,927 net.

NEWS

Clarke tax gaffe is gift to Labour

Kenneth Clarke handed Labour a big pre-conference propaganda boost yesterday by suggesting that voters would be "deeply suspicious" of any tax cuts he made in the November Budget.

In astonishingly frank remarks, the Chancellor said people would remember that the Tories promised tax reductions at the last election and were unable to deliver. Pages 1, 8, 9

Forget the past, says Blair

Tony Blair will bury his party's image as the political wing of the trade union movement tomorrow with a speech attempting to establish Labour as the party of enterprise in Britain. In his last Labour conference speech before the General Election, Mr Blair is expected to tell both business and unions to forget the past. Pages 1, 8, 9

Peace talks

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, are to meet in Washington to try to end the bloodshed engulfing the West Bank and Gaza. Pages 1, 13

Crowther dies

Leslie Crowther, the children's television favourite who changed course to become one of Britain's leading game show hosts, has died, aged 63. Page 3

Private NHS

The NHS has become the largest provider of private healthcare in Britain. In 1995 it earned £225 million from private work, just ahead of the £222.3 million earned by BUPA, its nearest rival. Page 2

Record jockey

Bookmakers lost a record of at least £20 million at Ascot on Saturday after the unprecedented achievement by Frankie Dettori of becoming the first jockey to ride all seven winners at one race meeting. Pages 3, 27, 37

Common law

Professional dog walkers who exercise dozens of pets at a time on Wimbledon Common are being brought to heel. Page 3

Flight of fancy

A British balloonist is building the biggest airship since the Hindenburg and plans a year-long trip around the world. Page 5

Psychiatric tests for barking attacker

A dog has been sent for psychiatric tests by a New York judge after it attacked its owners' granddaughter on her second birthday. Becky Bear, a white-coated akita dog, left the girl scarred and her parents, both lawyers, are claiming damages. The judge hoped an animal behaviourist would discover if the dog was usually savage. Page 12

Pension fight

The widow of a Spitfire pilot who died 20 years after serving on Christmas Island during Britain's atomic bomb tests, has been refused a war pension and her husband's RAF pension. Page 5

Sect for Ireland

A Hindu sect linked in the 1970s with murder, terrorism and self-mutilation, intends to set up a centre for children in the remote west of Ireland. Page 6

Labour battle

Baroness Castle of Blackburn rejected a compromise deal aimed at preventing a battle over pensions at the Labour Party conference. Page 9

Legal aid purge

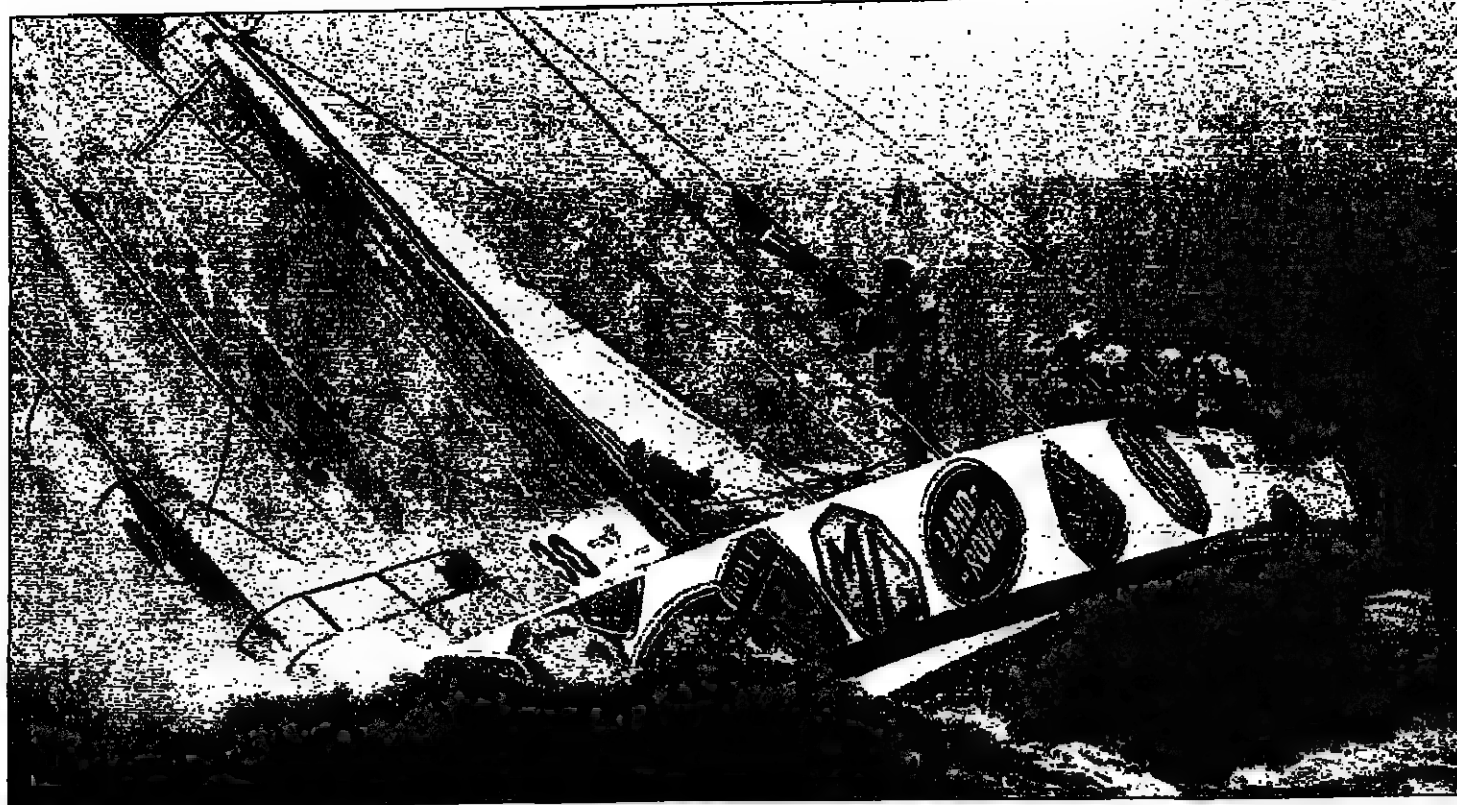
A Labour government would "bear down hard" on legal aid costs, tackling the 1 per cent of big cases that consume almost half of the criminal legal aid budget, the Shadow Lord Chancellor told the Bar Conference. Page 10

Afghan ordeal

The veil is descending once more on Kabul, the broken capital of what is left of Afghanistan as Taliban invaders impose strict Islamic law. Page 11

Great minds

A "Dictionary of French Intellectuals" will be published in France this week, offering a 1,300-page guide to the great Gallic minds of the past 100 years. Page 12



Ocean Rover attacks the waves off Southampton yesterday at the start of the BT Global Challenge Yacht Race. Pages 27, 37

BUSINESS

Labour's finances: After pumping in the equivalent of £100 million since the Labour Party was last in office, Britain's trade unions are now diminishing minority contributors, a study reveals for *The Times*. Pages 46, 48

Energy deal: The director of the Gas Consumers' Council has welcomed a possible deal for British Gas to sell its supply operations in Scotland and the North region to Scottish Hydro, which would become another multi-utility company. Page 48

Debt relief: Uganda may be the first beneficiary of a British-devised debt relief plan agreed in Washington, despite sniping on the sidelines between Germany and the United States. Page 48

ARTS

Thumbs down: Despite Ted Hughes's excellent translation of *Blood Wedding*, the Young Vic's new production of Lorca's classic play fails to be a success. Page 18

Acting playwright: Having taken a minor role in the original Abbey production of his play *The Cavaliers*, playwright Billy Roche now moves to centre stage at the Everyman Palace, Cork. Page 18

Opera double: Excellent young singers make Welsh National Opera's revival of *La Bohème* a cause for celebration; the Orchestra of the Opera National de Lyon brings a concert staging of *Werther* to the Barbican. Page 18

Dancing happy: Birmingham Royal Ballet unveils two world premieres. Page 19

FEATURES

Party man: Boris Bibikov, a dedicated Communist from Ukraine, was shot for crimes against the State. Owen Matthews went to Kiev in search of the truth behind his grandfather's execution. Page 15

My generation: As she approaches her fiftieth birthday, Bel Mooney comes to terms with the guilt of her free-wheeling generation — and decides to become a middle-aged woman with attitude. Pages 16, 17

MIND AND MATTER

Escape route: Scientists are beginning to suspect that a person's chances of surviving a disaster may be shaped by more than just luck. They are even beginning to wonder if there may be such a phenomenon as a natural-born survivor. Page 14

SPORT

Racing: Frankie Dettori displayed sublime gifts in rewriting the sport's record books with his remarkable seven victories at Ascot on Saturday. Pages 32, 33

Football: Liverpool established a three-point lead at the top of the FA Carling Premiership with a 2-1 victory at West Ham. In yesterday's other match, Manchester United, the reigning champions, moved up to third place by beating Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 at Old Trafford. Pages 25, 29

Sailing: Gale-force winds greeted the 14 crews competing in the BT Global Challenge when the race got underway in the Solent yesterday. Page 27

Rugby Union: Honours were shared in the eagerly-awaited meeting of Newcastle and Richmond — the two big-spending clubs in the Courage Clubs Championship. The match finished 20-20. Page 35

Golf: Per-Ulrik Johansson resisted a strong challenge from Constantino Rocca to win the Smurfit European Open tournament at the K Club in Dublin. Page 26

LOTTERY NUMBERS

19, 20, 23, 39, 36, 31. Bonus: 3. Four tickets win £2,657,056, according to preliminary estimates. Fifteen win £218,014 for five numbers plus the bonus; 765 win £2,671 for five numbers; 48,449 with four will receive £92; and 1,045,121 win £10 each for three numbers.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Alice is a wolf clothed as an attractive librarian. *Wilderness* (ITV 9pm). Review: Peter Barnard finds God easier to understand. *Heart of the Matter*. Page 47

OPINION

Conference dinosaurs

No wonder old Labour activists sense that the climate is inhospitable to their survival. Page 21

Nato exercise

Nato enlargement is a neat way of keeping the EU door shut. This is a policy of historic irresponsibility, outranking the fumbling while the Balkans drifted into war. Page 21

Historic jockey

Frankie Dettori has galloped into that narrow track of sporting history, even for those short-sighted fools who bet nothing on his historic record. Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The Republicans have two weapons with which to fight Bill Clinton. The first is money and the second is Bill Clinton. Page 20

MATTHEW PARRIS

Many of us grow increasingly weary of the edginess and thin skin of our politicians. They don't seem to be able to take it. Kenneth Clarke has only to feel the ladylike imprint of Anna Ford's elbow and Dr Ma-whinney runs off squealing to John Birt: "Your Anna's bullied my Ken in the playground." Page 20

LESLIE CROWTHER

Leslie Crowther, entertainer, Professor Stuart Piggett, archaeologist, Nico Colchester, journalist. Page 23

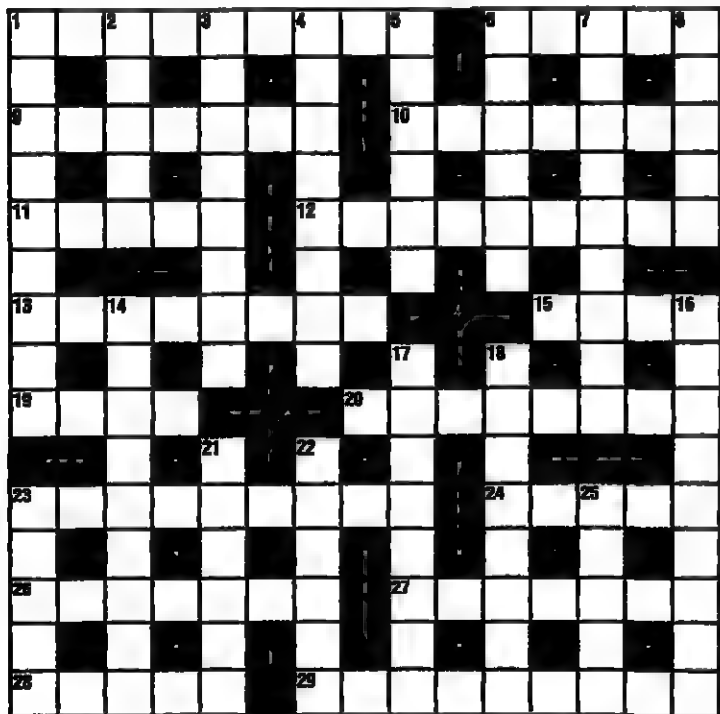
Cabinet split on Euro currency

The days when the train took the strain; Support for Bhutto; Organ music; Trial by jury; Prince of Wales's hard work. Page 21

THE BAKER

Najibullah was the guest of the UN forces in Kabul for years, taking refuge from the Kabul government which had condemned him to death. It was therefore the UN's responsibility to avoid his murder. But the UN failed, and the indignation expressed by the UN headquarters in Geneva is a laughable example of diplomatic hypocrisy. — *La Repubblica*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,286



- ACROSS**
- Blower's device for off-peak calls (9).
 - Subject of the Crown in charge (5).
 - Submitted account that's overdue, in debt (7).
 - Animal accommodated in unopened sty, not stable (7).
 - Charming woman can make us react nervously, losing head (5).
 - Excellent performing worker, he reports (9).
 - Taken in and given bread when in dire need (8).
 - Seed pearl, perhaps, found round end of oyster (4).
 - Attractive girl's ruin? (4).
 - Runaway animals found, and rest moved inside (8).
 - Haggle about tip for drinks attendant (9).
 - Stir when a wicket is taken without appeal (7).
- DOWN**
- What's the point of a quarrel? (9).
 - Conductor of a sanctimonious assembly (5).
 - Teachers taking form in this briefly (8).
 - US veteran's grandfather clock? (3-5).
 - Not supposing that gallery finally put in picture (6).
 - Schools give working group high points (6).
 - Bar admitting a legal beginner? That's common (9).
 - Being keen on exercising, vault (5).
 - Relief column held in check (9).
 - Soldier of fortune showing compassion about near-disaster (9).
 - Subsist on fertile land within pleasant range (8).
 - SHAPE or other military head-quarters? (8).
 - Scholar breaking restriction required to stay behind (6).
 - Stick poster above this place (6).
 - It's a metal club that is missing (5).
 - Liberal support for article shows up again in record (5).
- The National Final of The Times Aberlour Crossword Championship is next Saturday, October 5 at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel starting at 2pm.

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,285 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

FORECAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0811 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Region	Code
Greater London	701
West Surrey, Sussex	702
West Sussex, Kent	703
West Kent, Kent	704
West Essex, Essex	705
West Essex, Essex	706
West Essex, Essex	707
West Essex, Essex	708
West Essex, Essex	709
West Essex, Essex	710
West Essex, Essex	711
West Essex, Essex	712
West Essex, Essex	713
West Essex, Essex	714
West Essex, Essex	715
West Essex, Essex	716
West Essex, Essex	717
West Essex, Essex	718
West Essex, Essex	719
West Essex, Essex	720

ROAD TRAVEL

For the latest A to Z road travel information, 24 hours a day, dial 0338 401 followed by the appropriate code:

Region	Code
London & SE	721
West Essex	722
West Essex	723
West Essex	724
West Essex	725
West Essex	726
West Essex	727
West Essex	728
West Essex	729
West Essex	730
West Essex	731
West Essex	732
West Essex	733
West Essex	734
West Essex	735
West Essex	736
West Essex	737
West Essex	738
West Essex	739
West Essex	740

ROAD TRAVEL

For the latest A to Z road travel information, 24 hours a day, dial 0338 401 followed by the appropriate code:

Region	Code
London & SE	741
West Essex	742
West Essex	743
West Essex	744
West Essex	745
West Essex	746
West Essex	747
West Essex	748
West Essex	749
West Essex	750
West Essex	751
West Essex	752
West Essex	753
West Essex	754
West Essex	755
West Essex	756
West Essex	757
West Essex	758
West Essex	759
West Essex	760

ROAD TRAVEL

For the latest A to Z road travel information, 24 hours a day, dial 0338 401 followed by the appropriate code:

Region	Code
London & SE	761
West Essex	762
West Essex	763
West Essex	764
West Essex	765
West Essex	766
West Essex	767
West Essex	768
West Essex	769
West Essex	770
West Essex	771
West Essex	772
West Essex	773
West Essex	774
West Essex	775
West Essex	776
West Essex	777
West Essex	778
West Essex	779
West Essex	780

ROAD TRAVEL

For the latest A to Z road travel information, 24 hours a day, dial 0338 401 followed by the appropriate code:

Region	Code
London & SE	781
West Essex	782
West Essex	783
West Essex	784
West Essex	785
West Essex	786
West Essex	787
West Essex	788
West Essex	789
West Essex	790
West Essex	791
West Essex	792
West Essex	793
West Essex	794
West Essex	795
West Essex	796
West Essex	797
West Essex	798
West Essex	799
West Essex	800

FORECAST

Most of England and Wales will have sunshine at times with blustery showers. Heaviest in western areas. Southerly counties cloudy with some persistent rain, clearing during the evening.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and blustery showers.

London, SE, Cent S, SW England, Channel Islands: Mostly cloudy with some persistent rain. Wind west to southwesterly fresh or strong, moderating at times. Max 17C to 18C (63F to 64F).

E Anglia, Midlands: Rather cloudy with some patchy rain in far south. Wind southwesterly mainly fresh. Max 16C to 17C (61F to 63F).

E, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee.

Outlook: Sunshine and showers on Tuesday, becoming mostly dry and sunny on Wednesday.

Abertawe, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth: Mainly dry with bright or sunny spells. Wind southwesterly moderate or fresh locally strong. Max 15C to 17C (59F to 63F).

Wales, NW England, Lakes, Is. SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: N Ireland, North Wales and Shetland: Showers, some heavy. Wind southwesterly fresh to strong. Max 15C to 17C (59F to 63F).

NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny spells and blustery showers, some heavy. Wind west or southwesterly strong to near gale. Max 13C to 15C (55F to 59F).

Outlook: Sunshine and showers on Tuesday, becoming mostly dry and sunny on Wednesday.

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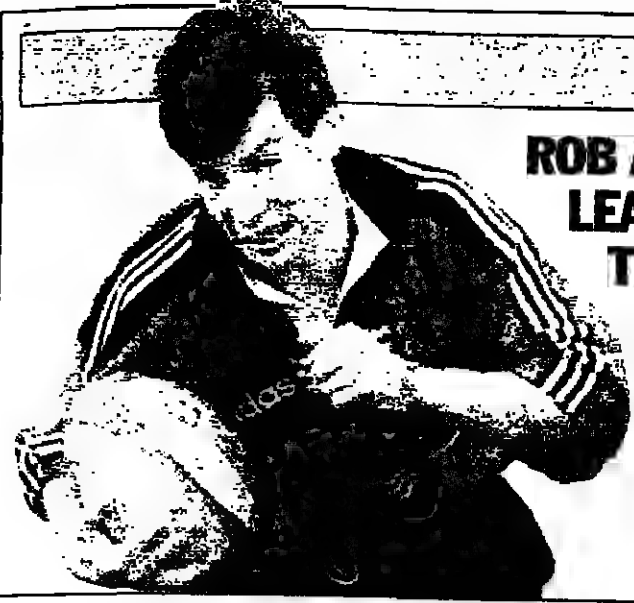
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ROB ANDREW LEADS THE PACK
Newcastle and Richmond share spoils
PAGE 35



THE HEAD-ON CRUNCH
Rangers re-open old wounds
PAGE 31
Full results and coverage



ROUND THE WORLD
Chay Blyth launches his Global Challenge
PAGE 27

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30 1996

United get value for money from Norwegian striking gem Solskjaer sparkles with quality

Manchester United.....2
Tottenham Hotspur.....0
By DAVID MILLER

A SMALL club in Norway's western fjords is an unlikely source for a solution to Alex Ferguson's deep embarrassment at the failure of Andy Cole. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, a snip at £1.5 million from little-known Molde, scored two goals against Tottenham Hotspur yesterday, the first with classic skill, that hold the promise of memorable deeds to come at Old Trafford and elsewhere.

After all those painful moments when openings flew astray off the knees or shins of the unfortunate Cole, Solskjaer's opening goal six minutes before half-time was a knife in Tottenham's heart. There is youthful innocence in the pale northern face of this 23-year-old, yet the manner in which he stole past Campbell to meet and control a dropping cross from Giggs, then feinted to put Walker, in goal, off guard before sweeping the ball beyond his reach was reminiscent of the great Scandinavian forwards of the past, such as Nordahl and Simonsson.

The authority of his lethal finishing made less significant the quiet performance of Cantona, for whom captaincy is clearly not a benefit but seemingly a diversion from his natural role as Scarlet Pimpernel.

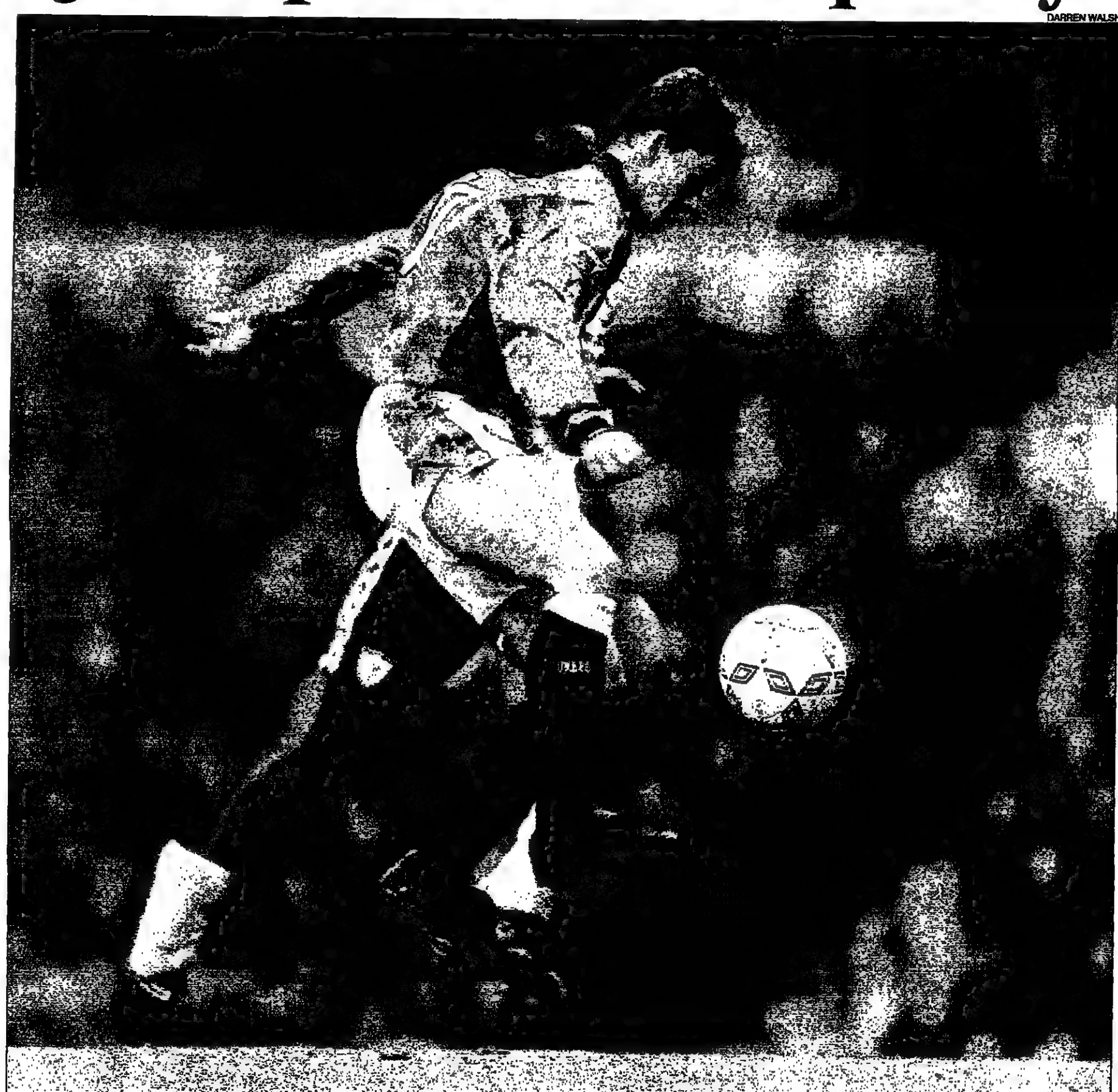
Liverpool go clear 28
Labour Arsenal 29
Steve McNamara 30
Results and tables 30
Celtic suffer 31

free of collective responsibility. He is essentially a player to inspire by deed rather than instruction.

Solskjaer's goals bring his tally to five (including one against Rapid Vienna in the European Cup Champions League), in eight appearances, four of those as a substitute. On this evidence, Ferguson need lose no sleep about Alan Shearer having preferred to join Newcastle United, quite apart from having saved a tidy sum. Shearer is unlikely to score a goal as masterful as Solskjaer's first if he plays until he is 50. Meanwhile Cole, regularly on display on the sale shelf as substitute, may conveniently tempt some Nationwide League first division manager with ambition and, if Ferguson is lucky, a spare million or two.

Yesterday's match, which Manchester won comfortably to move into third position, might have been decided by a wider margin, yet that would have obscured much intelligent play by a hard-pressed Tottenham team, which was missing the services of Mabbitt, Anderton and Armstrong. Indeed, the visitors might have scored first and had two desperate near-misses after the second goal arrived 12 minutes into the second half.

For a quarter of an hour at the start, so swift, fluid and accurate was Manchester's passing, the ball flowing between Beckham, Cantona and Butt to Giggs on one flank or Poborsky, that bounding little pinball, on the other, that Tottenham



Solskjaer prepares to take on Campbell, the Tottenham defender, before scoring his spectacular opening goal for Manchester United at Old Trafford yesterday

ham were playing hunt-the-thimble. Whenever they thought they had found the ball, in an instant it had exasperatingly disappeared again. Yet Walker's competence in goal and some last-ditch tackling by Campbell, Calderwood and Wilson served to keep the opposition at arms' length. When, after 20 minutes, Poborsky skated round Wilson, came in along the byline towards the post and rolled the ball back into the path of Giggs, the local hero lofted the ball high and wide.

Soon, at the other end, from a long cross by Fox, Howells had a half-chance, but, instead of heading the ball downwards prior to shooting, he controlled it with his upper arm and was booked for protesting his innocence. Legal or not, his shot had left Schmeichel well beaten. Back came Manchester with another series of attacks, from one of which Solskjaer, as calm as you like, scored the goal that lifted a crowd of nearly 55,000 out of their seats. For the second half, Ferguson

replaced Giggs, suffering from an ankle injury, with Cruyff. As they had at the beginning of the first half, United began to run their opponents dizzy. After a move begun by Cruyff on the left and swinging right, a final diagonal low pass from Butt was met by Solskjaer, coming in wide of the left post, and the ball was driven low and hard into the only gap beyond Walker, just inside the right post. Another slick goal.

Manchester might have gone further ahead with a sharp drive by

Butt, deflected away by Walker, while Cruyff, with a nimble side-step, opened a gap for a shot that was also deflected clear.

Throughout the match, Gary Neville, never mind his international colours, had regularly found himself extended by the pace of Sinton and it was down the left that Tottenham's hopes for a revival lay. Nevertheless, it was not until six minutes from time that Sinton's long dribble opened the way for Sheringham, who was slow to respond and had his eventual shot



Dettori: seven up Magnificent seven gives Dettori a perfect day

FRANKIE DETTORI'S feat of riding all seven winners at Ascot on Saturday — at accumulative odds of 25,095-1 — on one of the most keenly contested cards of the year was the greatest performance from the saddle ever seen.

2.00 Wall Street (2-1 fav)

Dettori shows brilliant judgment of pace and a cool head in a tight finish to make all the running on the Godolphin-owned colt.

2.35 Diffident (12-1)

Dettori shows split-second timing in a six-furlong sprint to win by a head, on a difficult ride, from the hot favourite, Lucayan Prince.

3.20 Mark Of Esteem (100-30)

In big race of the day, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, Dettori daringly waits for a gap to gain a stunning victory.

3.55 Decorated Hero (7-1)

Backed from morning odds of 14-1, Dettori has a difficult task under top weight in the day's big handicap, but wins comfortably.

4.30 Patchfully (7-4 fav)

Dettori comes from off the pace to take up the running a furlong out in this valuable race. Once ahead, the filly stops concentrating and needs firm persuasion.

5.00 Lochangel (5-4 jv-fav)

Lochangel looks inexperienced on only her second visit to the race-course, but Dettori's confidence passes down the reins and she comes home an easy winner.

5.35 Fujiyama Crest (2-1 fav)

By now, Fujiyama Crest, who would otherwise be five times the odds, is hot favourite. Dettori comes home with a magnificent display of front-running.

Julian Muscat, page 33

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IN BRIEF

Zulle leads Swiss to clean sweep in Spain

ALEX ZULLE won the Tour of Spain cycle race yesterday, from Laurent Duflaux and Tony Rominger, his Swiss compatriots. Zulle took a lead of more than six minutes into the 22nd and final stage — a 110-mile leg that started and ended in Madrid and was won by Tom Steels, of Belgium.

Zulle's task had been made easier when Miguel Indurain, the five-time winner of the Tour de France, dropped out after being left behind in the mountains for two days in succession. It was a first Tour of Spain victory for Zulle, who captured the overall lead when the race had barely reached halfway.

Sampras at ease

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the world No.1, cruised to his seventh tournament win of the season with a straight-sets victory over Hendrik Dreekmann, of Germany, at the Swiss indoor championship in Basle yesterday. Sampras won 7-5, 6-2, 6-0 to capture his 43rd career title and kept his record intact of having won all the finals in which he has appeared this year.

Kenyan one-two

Athletics: Kenyan domination of British road running continued when Christopher Kelong and Raphael Nziku staged a sprint finish along Princes Street in the Bupa Great Caledonian 10-kilometre race in Edinburgh yesterday. Kelong was just given the verdict, though they shared the winning time of 29min 11sec.

Icy silence

Ice hockey: Ian Cooper scored the only goal as Cardiff Devils beat Nottingham Panthers 1-0 in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final first leg on Saturday. It was the lowest scoring game in Great Britain since Ayr Raiders and Edinburgh Royals drew 0-0 in 1953.

Manly effort

Rugby league: Manly Warringah won their sixth Australian championship and first since 1987 in beating Sydney St George 20-8 in the Sydney Grand Final yesterday. Six of the side have been named in the Australia team to meet Papua next Sunday.

Jackson decisive

Hockey: A goal by Chris Jackson 13 minutes from time gave Ireland a 2-1 victory over Scotland in their opening match of the men's World Cup preliminary round in Cagliari, Sardinia, yesterday.

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Presenting a bad evening with Gary Lineker

TV ACTION REPLAY

Mel Webb on the front man of BBC football who is all over the box on Saturday but who rarely hits the target nowadays

human being and a sportsman. He is a bringer of glad tidings to the world and was a truly remarkable footballer. If only he was a truly remarkable practitioner in the television arts. Sadly, he is not. Even more sadly, he needs to improve to be mediocre.

Lineker popped up three times on Saturday, once as the presenter in the Beeb's Football Focus in Grandstand, later as the master of ceremonies in Match of the Day and, immediately that was over, as a team captain in *They Think It's All Over*, the laddish quiz programme. On the first two occasions, he wore grey. No colour was more appropriate for his performance.

In a formal setting, Lineker has a style that is less than fluent. When he is the front man, nothing flows, nothing is easy, nothing stops you fidgeting in your seat. All right then, he is wooden. He is quite clearly not at home with the

Teleprompter and when the delivery is not as flat as a Lincolnshire landscape, it has the emphasis on the wrong syllable. In *They Think It's All Over*, he is a clown. In his other role, he is serious. Seriously dreadful.

His performance on Saturday left one yearning for the unutterably wonderful Desmond Lynam. Lynam makes you believe that you are the only one he is talking to. Lineker leaves you with the inescapable feeling that you are the only one who is listening.

Agreed, it is a little unfair to compare Lynam with Lineker.

One is an acknowledged master, the other a very raw pupil. Lynam could make his viewer comfortable if watching an action replay of the sinking of the Titanic. Lineker, on the other hand, makes Southampton scoring four goals seem like nothing very remarkable at all. Which, as we all know, it is.

To give him his due, he is not always helped by all those around him, especially when presenting *Match of the Day*. The format of this programme, although cast from stone hewn somewhere in the Middle Ages, still works to a large extent, in that it distils

much of the dross out of British football and provides the sporting equivalents of soundbites — goalbites, if you like. There were 15 of them in the latest edition. Alan Hansen, one of Lineker's henchmen on Saturday, is an exception, along with the aforesaid Barker, who proves the rule that successful sports people do not necessarily make successful broadcasters. You only have to watch Andrew Castle, who was once a moderate British tennis player, groping his way haplessly through the maze of PGA European Tour golf on Sky Sports to see the proof of that.

Hansen is a man who is comfortable with television, and is undeniably an expert. If only he would open his mouth a little more, but that is to cavil on behalf of the hard of hearing. Would that Trevor Brooking were as accomplished.

Brooking has one thing

going for him and one against. In his favour is his great wisdom, and nobody should discount that. Against him is the fact that he never completes a sentence.

Brooking's dissertation contains fewer full stops, or any other punctuation marks, with the possible exception of the semi-colon, than do those of my revered colleague, Bernard Levin. It is stream of consciousness extended to the ultimate degree. Stream of unconsciousness, more like. It is grammatical genocide, soooo-babble.

That said, *Match of the Day* is a programme of which the BBC should still, by and large, be proud. It is skilfully shot, expertly edited and immaculately produced, and in many ways knocks spots off its rivals. In the end, it all comes down to the "L" factor. When Lynam's there, it's terrific, when Lineker takes his place, it isn't. And then some. Sorry, Gary.

SNOOKER

Ebdon on top as McManus falters

By Phil Yates

PETER EBDON, runner-up to Stephen Hendry in the Royal Scottish Masters 12 months ago, looked eminently capable of winning this year's tournament when he rallied to lead Alan McManus 4-3 in their best-of-17-frame final at Motherwell yesterday.

Ebdon, whose powers of recovery are renowned, trailed 3-1 before reeling off the closing three frames of the afternoon session. He was left requiring five of the remaining ten in order to capture the fourth title of his career and a first prize of £60,000.

Repeatedly muttering decipherable oaths to himself, and shaking his head after every errant shot, McManus was ill at ease from the outset. He edged 2-1 ahead by taking a couple of scrappy frames but was extremely fortunate to extend this advantage to 3-1.

McManus, who possesses a far from impressive success rate when he figures in the closing stages of the leading event, found himself 45-23 adrift in the fourth frame when Ebdon missed a tricky red. He cleared to the pink with a run of 53, but only after fluking the second red of the break into a balk pocket.

"I think it's a combination of the fear of losing, allied to a keen desire to win, that helps me focus so strongly when I fall behind," Ebdon said, after his comeback from two down with three to play for an unlikely 6-5 semi-final victory over John Higgins on Saturday.

Ebdon dominated the next two frames. In fact, while he put together well-crafted contributions of 55 and 39,

DETAILS

FINAL: P Ebdon (Eng) leads A McManus (Scot) 4-3. Frame scores: (Ebdon first) 45-23, 29-68, 43-78, 78-0, 73-0, 72-49.
SEMI-FINALS: Ebdon bt J Higgins (Scot) 6-5, McManus bt J Perrot (Eng) 6-5

McManus did not pot a single ball.

Ebdon jawed two straightforward reds in the seventh frame but, with McManus mistaking to struggle, those mistakes went unpunished and he eventually moved ahead for the first time at 4-3 by clearing from yellow to brown. It was Ebdon's momentum, and McManus's apparent lack of composure, that suggested that the Wellingborough-based Londoner was well placed to prevent a fourth Scottish triumph since the competition began in 1989.

Nerves affected the outcome of both semi-finals. Higgins, desperate for victory in front of so many family and friends, crumbled badly; McManus, weighed down by a similar burden of expectation, almost suffered an identical fate before beating John Parrott 6-5. It is the third time this year that Higgins has succumbed to pressure. He lost 9-8 to Nigel Bond in the final of the British Open five months ago after being 60 points ahead with only 67 available in the deciding frame, and 13-12 to Ronnie O'Sullivan in the quarter-finals of the Embassy World Championship after missing a pink when on the threshold of a 13-11 win.

Higgins, 21, was devastated by his latest setback. "I had him ten times and I couldn't put him away," Higgins, who has now beaten Ebdon only once in six meetings, said.



Rocca contemplates the prospect of the title eluding him during the final round

Morley reigns in Germany

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOANNE MORLEY, of Great Britain, left the field trailing as she battled through wind and rain to a maiden Tour victory in the German Open in Hamburg yesterday. She shot a closing 68 for an 11-under-par 281 over the Marriott Hotel Treudenberg course, to finish four strokes clear of Maria Hjorth, of Sweden, with Lisa Hackney, the Welsh Open champion, one stroke further behind.

"I have never played better in weather like this," said Morley, who made her debut in the Solheim Cup match a

little over a week ago. The Briton had been two strokes off the lead when she started the final round, but was never caught after opening with a hat-trick of birdies.

Barday Howard, Jody Panagan, Graham Rankin and Gary Wolstenholme — who were all in the Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup team that beat the United States at Royal Portcawl last September — are again in the squad from which the team to defend the trophy at Quaker Ridge, New York, next August, will be named.

Michael Brooks and Keith Nolan have been selected, together with Howard and Wolstenholme, to play for Great Britain and Ireland in the world amateur team championship which begins in the Philippines in November. SQUAD: M Blackey (England), W Ebdon (Northern), M Brooks (England), M Carter (Ireland), N Edwards (Wales), J Panagan (Northern), P Fenton (Northern), A Forsyth (Scotland), A Howard (Scotland), P Lawrence (Ireland), K Nolan (Ireland), D Park (England), G Rogers (Ireland), G Spring (Ireland), I Taylor (Ireland), S Webster (Ireland), I Wiggins (Ireland), G Wolstenholme (Ireland) & Young (Ireland).

Scores, page 37

BASKETBALL

Sheffield rebound from defeat

THE reaction to the Budweiser League's surprising result of the season was just what Jim Brandon wanted (Nicholas Harting writes). The coach of Sheffield Sharks, who had been humbled at home by Chester Jets six days earlier, was delighted to see his squad make Thames Valley Tigers pay with an impressive 105-87 win at Bracknell.

Richard Scantlebury accumulated 23 points to give Crystal Palace an overdue success, their first back in the Budweiser League, beating the Bears 72-70 at Worthing. Hemel and Watford Royals staged a spirited late rally against Chester, yet still succumbed 93-91 at home.

Birmingham Bullets beat Derby Storm 84-78 in the Midlands derby while Manchester Giants made up arrears of 14 points to overcome the Leopards 84-77 in Saturday's other Budweiser League fixture.

Clifton won at Leicester after a flurry of goals in both halves saw them finally edge home 5-4. Purdy Miller put Leicester ahead after 17 minutes only to watch Lucy Culliford equalise and Elaine Bevan give Clifton a 2-1 lead. Sarah Blanks put Leicester back on level terms from a penalty corner but, two minutes later, Culliford struck again for Clifton.

Denise Marston-Smith then put Clifton 4-2 up with the first move of the second half, lofting her penalty corner strike into the corner of the net. Miller got one back for Leicester but Marston-Smith scored again. Two minutes later Miller claimed her hat-trick but by then it was too late.

Slough, winners of four national league titles, are seldom slow to capitalise on their chances but not even they could believe their luck yesterday when they were presented with a golden opportunity to take charge at the top of the premier division. The former champions were playing Trojans, newly promoted from division one, while Slough's nearest rivals, Hightown and Ipswich, were facing each other in Formby. Or they would have done if the rain had stopped. With the pitch flooded, both sides went home without a ball being struck or a point awarded.

Slough, however, had not bargained for the determination of Trojans, and it needed three goals in the space of three minutes to decide matters. Karen Brown scored from a penalty stroke in the 51st minute, Katherine

HOCKEY: COMFORTABLE VICTORY FOR MEN'S CHAMPIONS AS TROJANS GO DOWN FIGHTING

Slough make the most of golden opportunity

By ALIX RAMSAY

JAMES equalised 60 seconds later before Sue Chandler, the Slough captain, secured the 2-1 victory.

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Crutchley off to flying start

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

Two minutes into the second half, Crutchley scored from another short corner and added the fifth goal in the 49th minute from a penalty stroke. Ambridge reduced the lead six minutes before the end.

Old Loughionians achieved the biggest win of another high-scoring day, putting seven goals past Hounslow, who managed only one in reply. Thompson, Lee and Dover scored two goals each for Old Loughionians.

Gibson's three goals for East Grinstead were not enough against Southgate, for whom Attala scored three

goals and Simons one in a 4-3 win. Barford Tigers beat Guildford 6-4, with Dhaminder Singh scoring four goals for Barford and Jennings two for Guildford.

A goal in the 54th minute by Evennett enabled Canterbury to snatch a 3-2 win over Reading. Likewise, Cook's goal in the fortieth minute was enough to seal a 4-3 victory for Surbiton over Teddington.

Five teams share the lead of the first division, with maximum points after two games.

Results, page 37

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Courtaulds International
Skipper: Boris Webber

Global Teamwork
Skipper: Merlyn Owen

Group 4
Skipper: Mike Golding

Heath Insurance II
Skipper: Adrian Donovan

Motorola
Skipper: Mark Lodge

Nuclear Electric
Skipper: Richard Tudor

Ocean Rover
Skipper: Paul Bennett

Pause to Remember
Skipper: Tom O'Connor

Save the Children
Skipper: Andy Hindley

3Com
Skipper: David Tomkinson

Time & Tide
Skipper: James Hatfield

Toishie Wave Warrior
Skipper: Simon Walker

THE RACE TIMETABLE

1996 RACE LEGS

LEG 1: Start Sept 29:
Southampton to Rio de Janeiro, 5,000 miles (expected Oct 29)

LEG 2: Start Nov 20:
Rio de Janeiro to Wellington, 6,600 miles (expected Dec 30)

1997 RACE LEGS

LEG 3: Start Feb 9:
Wellington to Sydney, 1,230 miles (expected Feb 15)

LEG 4: Start Mar 2:
Sydney to Cape Town, 5,200 miles (expected Apr 8)

LEG 5: Start May 4:
Cape Town to Boston, 7,000 miles (expected Jun 12)

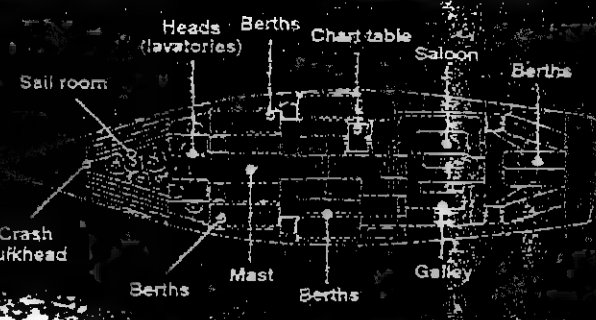
LEG 6: Start Jun 29:
Boston to Southampton, 3,000 miles (expected Jul 15)

THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE ROUTE

1996-1997

THE BOATS

Skipper and crew: 13
Rig: Bermudan Cutter
Length overall: 67ft
Beam: 17ft 3in
Displacement: 45 tonnes
Sail area: 1,932sq ft
Fuel: 1,100 litres
Water: 1,900 litres
Engine: Perkins Sabre 130hp



SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Each boat carries:
Two danbuoys
Two incoastal lifebelts
Two McMurdo lights
A personal EPIRB (automatic radio beacon) for each crew member

Rope used: 50 kilometres
Wire used in the rigging: 6 1/2 kilometres
Cloth for sails: 46,500 square metres
Paint for hulls: 87,500 litres
Diesel (mainly for charging): 140,000 litres

GRAPHIC BY GEOFFREY SIMS, TONY GARRETT AND PAUL BRYANT

SAILING: GROUP 4 SETS EARLY PACE IN ROUND-THE-WORLD CHALLENGE

New adventurers head off into stormy waters

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

THE 14 BT Global Challenge crews got what they paid for yesterday as they crashed and pounded their way across the start line in a howling gale on the Solent. Going to windward, the seas sent spume and spray high over the bows of the 67ft David Thomas-designed cutters, outbound for Rio de Janeiro, a passage of just over 5,000 miles.

It was a dramatic and impressive sight as the fleet finally came under orders off Gillykicker Point, where the Princess Royal started them just after midday. In the midst of a spectator fleet of hundreds of boats of all shapes and sizes under grey and wet skies. As the Challenge yachts ground their way westwards down the Solent, the west-going ebb tide gradually kicked in, making for a big swell against the south-westerly gale, gusting to over 50 knots. For the amateur crews, this was a moment to relish and an experience many have dreamt of for months.

On each boat, they were all - bar the bowmen and helmsman - sitting on the rail, getting a thorough soaking and lapping up the attention. As *Ocean Rover* - with the skipper, Paul Bennett, at the wheel, and *The Times's* own sponsored crew, Jim Capstick, up on the bow - bounced and plunged her way past Osborne Bay, relatives and supporters on a motor launch burst into cheers and whistles. The crew responded with cheers of their own.

The start was one of the trickiest parts of the 29,000-mile marathon that takes the fleet around the world against the prevailing winds in a voyage that finishes back in Southampton in July next

year, with five stopovers on the way. For the skippers, it was vital not to incur any damage in collision with any spectator craft.

Almost all chose two reefs in the mainsail and carried small yankee jibs and bright red storm staysails. The first over the line was *Global Teamwork*, skippered by Merlyn Owen, but he was too quick off

Next came Chris Tibbs, on *Concert*, with the other *Times*-sponsored crew, Lucy Duncan, among those on the rail, then David Tomkinson, on *3Com*, with Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, in fourth.

Three miles and 52 minutes later, at a special prize gate set between the Royal Yacht Squadron and the sail training ship, *Antrim*, moored about half a mile offshore, Webber tacked just inside Tibbs to take first blood in the race, winning the first of the day's two special prizes. Tomkinson was third with Golding, at this stage, fourth. Then came Andrew Hindley, on *Save the Children*, Mark Lodge, on *Motorola*, Richard Merriweather, on *Commercial Union*, and then the favourite, Richard Tudor, on *Nuclear Electric*.

By the second prize gate just over an hour later, between Hurst Castle and Fort Albert at the entrance to the Needles Channel (where there was a big swell building), *Group 4* had taken the lead, 11 seconds ahead of *Save the Children* with *Courtaulds* a further 44 seconds back in third. After passing the Needles Fairway buoy, the yachts then set off for the Portuguese coast, where they leave the Berlinga light to starboard and then head straight down to Rio.

Given the weather, Chay Blyth, the founder and director of the race, must have been heartened by the turnout from spectators, who lined the shore in front of Fort Gillykicker and packed the decks of everything from old paddle steamers to small yachts. It seems the public fascination with the event is set to continue.



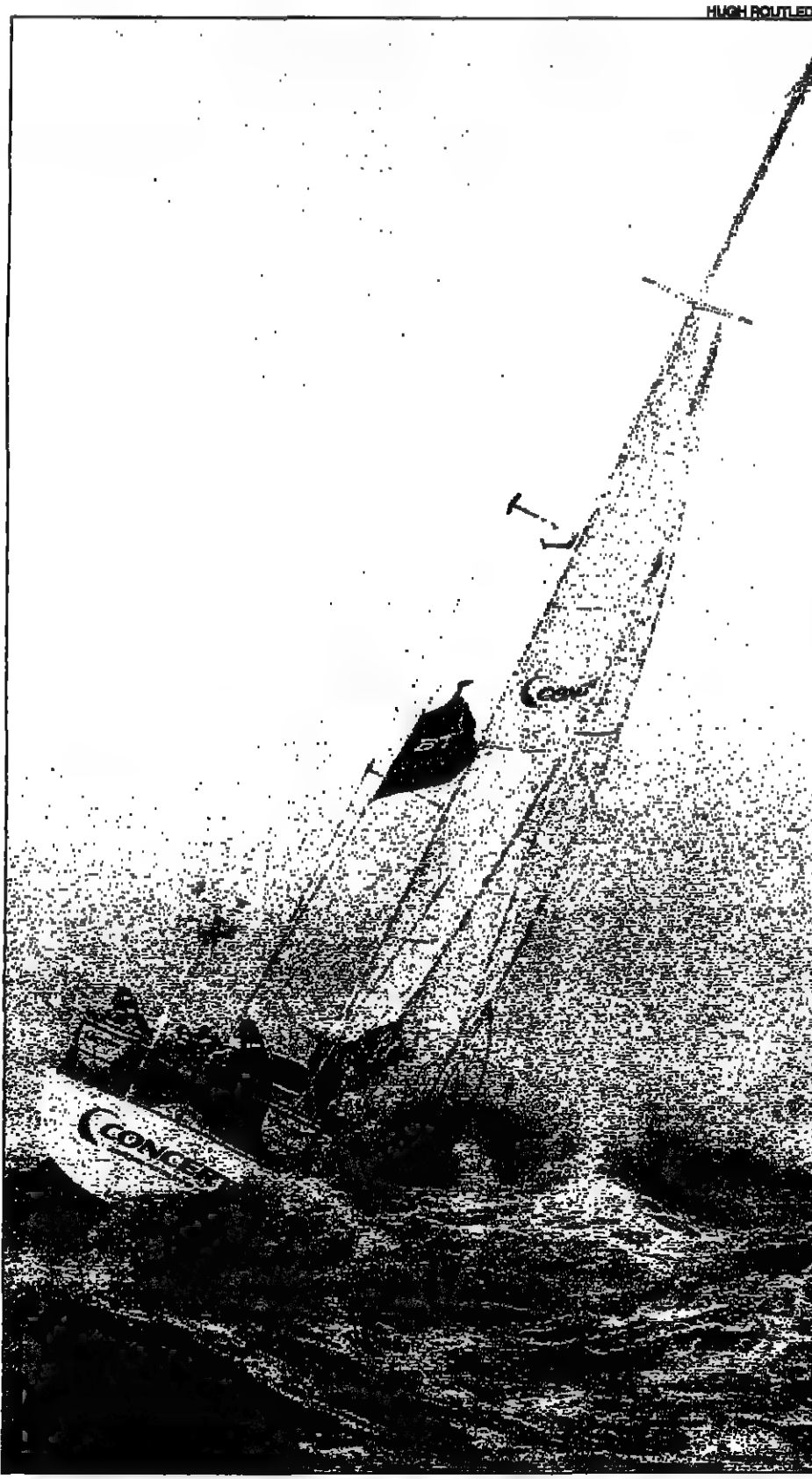
the mark and crossed ten seconds early. As a penalty - a very harsh one - Owen was later required to heave-to for an hour off the Needles Fairway buoy.

The race leader was thus the only South African skipper in the race, Boris Webber, on *Courtaulds*, who quickly got his yacht into the groove and seemed to benefit early on with a third reef in his main.



Bennett at the helm

Positions, page 37



Concert rides the waves as the BT Global Challenge yachts struggle down the Solent

Waiting to hear news of birth halfway to Rio

By James Capstick

I was on the bow of *Ocean Rover* with the rest of the crew last week as we motored into Ocean Village in Southampton with the 13 other yachts soon to race around the world in the BT Global Challenge. We were assembling for the last time before yesterday's start to make our final preparations for the race.

As we turned into our allotted berth, we were all amazed at the response on the docks. The crowds cheered and we were illuminated by a massive searchlight as the announcer introduced us to the spectators.

This was the official opening of the week-long festival before the "world's toughest yacht race" got under way. As the remaining boats followed us into the marina, I was searching the crowd for my wife and children. Then it was time for the speeches, including one from Chay Blyth, the race director, whom my wife, Tracey, has crossed off our Christmas-card list for thinking up the "Challenge" in the first place.

When I considered I had done my bit on board, I jumped ship and went in search of the family. It was when I eventually found them that I think I started to realise for the first time the full effect of what I am undertaking.

Both my boys, Stephen and Christopher, were very upset when they realised that I was soon to set sail. They had obviously listened to the speeches of how dangerous it could be.

As for Tracey, who is eight months pregnant, I think it would be fair to say, she is "hormonally challenged" at the moment. She tends to have mood swings from calm and collected through to near hysteria. On this occasion, she was definitely veering to-

wards the latter end of the scale.

Having been reunited with my family, I stood there with all three sobbing their hearts out. The start was still a week away but I have to say that I wished that I was about to set off, so as to avoid even worse scenes when I finally did go. I suppose that is partly the coward in me coming out and partly not wanting to put them through it again.

After about an hour standing in near silence, pretending to watch the fireworks display, Tracey drove the boys home and left me, as I was required with the rest of the crew to stay on the boat and prepare it for the race.

The logistics are amazing: one minute I was counting out 2,000 packets of assorted cups-a-soups, the next helping to take the toilet doors off because they can cause injury in the conditions we are expecting on the way down the Atlantic to Rio.

I reckon that, for the past couple of days, I have had the best job on the boat. While everyone else is in the thick of it, I have been 85 feet up the mast, sewing leather protective patches on to anything that might cause damage through chafe or wear.

It is probably the quietest and most private place on the boat. The only thing is, I suppose, that it gives you a lot of time to think and I have a lot to think about. Tracey has now been to the hospital and is booked in for her Caesarean section on the afternoon of October 15. I'll be awaiting news of that halfway to Brazil.

TOMORROW

What Tracey Capstick thinks of her husband's nine-month adventure

Getting a whiff of the tribulations ahead Farewell tinged with anxiety

By Lucy Duncan

FROM saying to everyone I meet "oh, it's months until I go", suddenly the start of the BT Global Challenge is this weekend - and only a matter of hours away.

The pre-race week was hard work and far more hectic than I thought it would be. There were the inevitable pre-race parties but most of the time was spent getting the boat ready, loading up supplies and sorting out endless inventories of equipment. And that was before any of us sorted out our own personal crew kit.

Deciding what to take was less of a problem than I had

imagined. As a crew, we agreed a very specific list of equipment including just one tape and one book each. I compiled my tape during my last week at home indulging my fantasies that I had been invited onto *Desert Island Discs* (all this media contact has gone to my head).

It is an extremely catholic collection and, no doubt I'll never want to hear any of my favourite pieces of music again, once we get back to Southampton next July.

As well as humping piles of gear onto the boat, my last two days were filled with dismantling and reassembling all the boat's deck winches. In the company of

Phil, a fellow crew member, (an engineer in real life), we managed to put them all back together again and, much to our relief, not had any screws, nuts or cogs left over at the end.

I now carry around with me wherever I go the unmistakable smell of Gunk (grease-removing fluid used for cleaning the winches) and my fellow crew claim to be able to smell me before they can see me. I don't think Gunk will catch on as a perfume.

Three other crew members spent more than half the week packing five weeks' worth of food into carrier bags. This included individually bagging and precisely weighing

100-gram bags of peanut portions for each crew member as one of a variety of daily 'treats'.

The general feeling from the crew was that everyone just wanted to get going. We had all had our pre-race pep talk from Chay Blyth, including a video of the last race. The emphasis of the video seemed to concentrate on how many people had returned home to unemployment last time - which seemed a strange choice. The rest of the session was fairly upbeat and the crew's enthusiasm remains undimmed.

As Sarah, our boat's medic, put it, "it's rather like being a medical student, the training is so long that even though you know the job can be gritty at times, you can't wait to get on with it."

On the personal side, I seem to be going away having left most of my affairs in total chaos. I have just managed to rent my house and my long-suffering elder sister is tying up all the administrative loose ends. There are far more rules and regulations involved in renting out a house than I had ever dreamt.

One of the great attractions of the next ten months is getting away from such hassles. In fact, my main administrative worry will be what to write in *The Times* for my next article.

THE BT Global Challenge is probably harder on relatives and friends of the intrepid sailors taking part than it is on the participants themselves. Crashing around in the Southern Ocean is one thing; sitting at home wondering if everything is all right thousands of miles away in unimaginable weather, is quite another.

Kenneth and Jill Duncan, whose daughter, Lucy, will be reporting for *The Times* from on board *Concert*, are among thousands of people who have said goodbye to loved ones this weekend.

By Edward Gorman

was a doctor, makes no secret of his admiration for Lucy, who has taken leave from her job as a midwife to compete in the race. "My wife might have done it, but never me because I'm a physical coward," he said.

He added that, like any parent - especially one unfamiliar with sailing and the sea - he was worried about Lucy's safety, but this was tempered by his confidence both in Lucy and in the thorough way the race is organised.

"It's a very daunting thing she is taking on, but I have enormous confidence in her."

He said. "She's a team player and is used to being under stress and is used to having to help and to do whatever has to be done," he said.

Duncan and his wife, who live at Steeple Aston, in Oxfordshire, are hoping to travel out to Cape Town to watch Lucy sail in for what will be the penultimate stopover. By that time they hope the worst of the race will be over. In the meantime, they will be following her progress through her reports for *The Times*. "We'll be reading her stories - it's going to be rather fun," he said.

FOOTBALL: LABOURED VICTORY OVER TEAM REDUCED TO NINE MEN REVEALS LACK OF IMAGINATION AND TACTICAL ACUMEN AT HIGHBURY

Arsenal slow to use dismissals as credit cards

Arsenal 2
Sunderland 0

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

"THE players," Pat Rice, the Arsenal caretaker manager, said, "have been brilliant, absolutely brilliant and hopefully they'll make Mr Wenger's life easier, too. He can sleep easy."

Had Arsenal's new, French manager, due to arrive this evening, been at Highbury to see Arsenal grind out their laborious win against a Sunderland team reduced for most of the match to nine men, he is more likely to have had nightmares, to have muttered in his sleep, "J'y suis, j'y reste."

By virtue of that he is the word, of this shabby success, Arsenal moved into second place. It reminded me of an old schoolmaster, an Alsatian like Wenger, who wrote on the report of a dull pupil who had attained second place: "In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. This acedemy for his position as vicar."

Midway through the first half, Sunderland, who had been playing much the crisper football, had their left back,

Scott, sent off for the second of two wild tackles on Dixon. Peter Reid, his manager, inexplicably thought the tackle a "great" one and confronted the referee. Paul Danson, so aggressively that he himself was sent down the tunnel.

Reid, who is likely to face a misconduct charge from the Football Association, admitted: "It was very unprofessional and I do apologise for it, but it's an emotional game, and sometimes you do get carried away."

Worse was to follow when Sunderland's lone striker, Paul Stewart, was expelled, five minutes from half-time, for the second of two handling offences. Rice felt the referee could have contented himself with a warning word, and it is true that mere handball is hardly as heinous as a foul tackle. But rules are rules: there are, on the field, no distinctions between yellow cards and the climate being what it is, it is hard to see what else Danson could do.

After which, Arsenal's sadly unintelligent team made wretchedly heavy weather of their victory. Rice himself must take some of the blame. It took him until ludicrously late to appreciate that the best

way to negotiate a packed defence is to go round the back, using the wings.

"Let me tell you something," he said, "you could put eight monkeys there and it would be hard to break them down." Resisting the temptation to ask which were the monkeys, it is true that Rice eventually pushed Paul Merson out to the left wing and, later still, brought Ray Parlour onto the right.

Parlour, with his second touch, blasted a tremendous shot past Coton for Arsenal's second goal. The pass came from another substitute, the young centre forward, Shaw. So did the left-wing cross from which John Hartson, after 72 minutes, headed Arsenal into a belated lead.

Until Arsenal scored their first goal, and Reid daringly brought on a couple of strikers to give Arsenal a couple of frights in an attempt to "nick" a point, Sunderland packed their own half and booted either into touch or no man's land. Who could blame them? It was incumbent on Arsenal to use their brains and their numerical advantage. But the longer the siege went on, the more unimaginative they looked. Ian Wright did have a shot kicked off the line by Melville in the first half, but was largely subdued.

Even David Dein, the hyperactive Arsenal vice-chairman, seems muted now, recalling the apocryphal words President Eisenhower addressed to the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles: "Don't just say something. Stand there!"

But what will Wenger say?

ARSENAL (3-5-2): D. Seaman — S. Bould, A. Adams, M. Keown — L. Dixon, P. Veltz (sub: R. Parlour, 87min), P. Merson, D. Platt, N. Winstanley (sub: P. Shaw, 71) — J. Hartson, I. Wright.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1): A. Coton — G. Hall, A. Melville, I. Honey, M. Scott, P. Stewart (sub: M. Bridges, 16), K. Ball, S. Agnew, A. Rae (sub: D. Kubiak, 27), M. Gray (sub: C. Russell, 62) — P. Stewart.

Referee: P. Danson.



Reid makes his point and gets his marching orders



Scott is dismissed by Danson. Stewart was to fall foul of the referee soon afterwards

Slack finishing gives Gullit slap in the face

Chelsea 1
Nottingham Forest 1

BY KEITH PRIXE

AS A player, Ruud Gullit could always work his frustrations out on the pitch. Being a coach, he says, presents different problems. On Saturday Gullit stood hands on hips, head shaking sadly, bemoaning the injustice of it all. It is deadlocks like this that make dreadlocks like his turn prematurely grey.

The result was a farce, the contest as absorbing as it is likely to be in the FA Carling Premiership when only one side is making any attempt to win. That side was not Forest, and Gullit now has a fortnight in which he says his feelings will only fester. Time will tell if a great player can buck the trend and become the great manager many expect him to, and this is a very early test.

"A slap in the face" was how Gullit described the injury-time goal which Jason Lee deprived his side of the victory that would have made a bad week for Chelsea more tolerable. It was surely more painful than that. Better sides than Gullit's have been turned over at Anfield, and for all the embarrassment of their home defeat against Blackpool in midweek, Chelsea are still in the Coca-Cola Cup. But how to explain emerging from a ridiculously one-sided exhibition match with a draw?

Backing his players was a reasonable start, and one that did not go unappreciated in the home dressing-room at Stamford Bridge. "I could not have asked for more," Gullit said. "I do not blame them. They did everything but win the game."

True enough. Of the 28 attempts on goal, Chelsea had 24, and had Vialli's early volley not hit the bar, they might have swamped Forest. The Italy striker eventually scored when Wise touched

back Minto's pass six minutes into the second half, and for some time thereafter only Crossley's reflexes stood between the rampant Blues and the retreating Reds. But, with the clock showing 92 minutes played, Woan thumped the ball upfield and Lee, with an assured first touch, hit a fine half-volley over Hitchcock and in off the far post.

Forest had been played off the park, but are superior technique and overwhelming possession enough? Frank Clark, their manager, thinks not. "At 1-0 down, anything can happen," he said. "The goalkeeper kept us in it, and we got a break — the first we have had all season."

Forest are, he admits, reduced to "scratching and battling" for points. They showed all the attacking instincts of a wet paper bag, and yet Clark said he "had a go at half-time because we were going forward too fast." It was an extraordinary confession, and one that perhaps reveals the depths of his concern.

Since beating Coventry City on the opening day of the season, Forest have taken four points out of 21 — a repeat of the start to their 1992-93 season under Brian Clough when, with most pundits saying Forest were too good to go down, they did precisely that. Clark's Forest, on this showing, are simply too bad to stay up.

Chelsea will surely prosper under Gullit. Their finishing — Petrescu's lob over six yards — was the most obvious howler — was woful, but their movement and ambition a delight. Clark believes that they will not score enough goals to challenge for the title, and he is probably right.

CHelsea (3-5-2): K. Hanchett — M. Duberry, F. Lacoboul, S. Clarke — D. Petrescu, C. Bury, R. D. Mello, D. Wise, S. Minto — M. Hughes, G. Vialli.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2): M. Crossley — G. Cooper, N. Jansen, S. Pearce — D. Lyle, P. McGovern, D. Wright, D. Pringle, C. San-Willem (sub: C. Allen, 78), I. Woan, A. Hesketh — S. Roy (sub: J. Lee, 48), D. Saunders.

Referee: G. Poll.

Pass masters Everton put Wednesday in their place

Everton 2
Sheffield Wednesday 0

BY MARK HODKINSON

IF A towel had been thrown from the Sheffield Wednesday bench, or had David Platt gambled on to the pitch waving a white handkerchief, no one would have been surprised.

Everton, quite simply, ravaged Wednesday and it was barely an understatement when Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said: "It could have been ten."

Without their beacon, Duncan Ferguson, Everton were bullied into the passing game and it suited them splendidly. The ball was married to the turf and the fluency of their play was almost joyous at times.

Michael Branch wriggled past Walker on six minutes but fell to the ground as the defender closed in. A penalty was awarded; a decision Royle later conceded was "shady". Unsworth rammed the kick against the bar, but the disappointment did not trouble Everton.

Wednesday, in their fluorescent orange kit, were as stationary as traffic cones and, without the injured Collins and Pemberton, their midfield had neither enterprise or intent.

Joe Parkinson fed Kanchelskis and the winger obliged with his trademark run and finish. Shoulders rolling, right instep flashing like a sabre, he swashbuckled

through Wednesday's defence before placing it beyond Pressman. Kanchelskis has little peripheral vision, and his next move is rarely a surprise, but at full pace he is as elusive as a ghost.

The goal signalled a cascade of chances for Everton. Kanchelskis, Speed and Branch compelling Pressman to make a series of saves. Andy Booth might have equalised but was pulled back by Unsworth as he approached Southall.

Unsworth was rightly booked and a more fastidious referee than Paul Alcock might have sent him off.

The anticipated banquet of goals did not arrive, but the second and final one was of a rare value. Michael Branch outwitted Stefanovic, tore to the by-line and crossed for Stuart to prod home with aplomb.



Kanchelskis inspired

It was a fitting cameo of Branch's overall performance. On only his 17th full appearance, and at just 17, he showed heartwarming potential. He is impudent, linear, and his style of play uncannily similar to a certain Robbie Fowler from across the other side of Stanley Park.

Platt, the Wednesday manager, was typically frank afterwards. "We got lucky today, end of story," he said. "My goalkeeper gave a class display and can hold his head up but, from full back upwards, Everton were better in all aspects. They had two sharp players up front. I think Branch was excellent. In time he is going to be a very, very good player."

Royle revealed that Branch will be chaperoned into his professional career. "We will look after him and make sure he doesn't get burnt-out. He is very tired back there in the dressing-room but he can be pleased with himself. We have known about Michael Branch for some time and we intend to pitch him in and out of the first team at the right time," Royle said.

On an afternoon when Everton's football had been commendably slick, Royle could not resist a pinch of sarcasm. "Who was it who said we were one-dimensional?" he asked. The press room fell silent.

EVERTON (4-3-3): N. Southall — E. Bennett, C. Scott, D. Unsworth, A. Hinchcliffe — J. Parkinson, J. Speed, G. Speed — A. Kanchelskis, M. Branch, G. Speed.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K. Pressman — P. Atherton, D. Walker, D. Stefanovic, J. Nott — G. Whitham (sub: M. Williams, 70min), D. Trustfull, S. Hall (sub: G. Hyde, 48), R. Stewart — D. Hart (sub: R. Humphreys, 48), A. Booth.

Referee: P. Alcock.

Kelly seeks Brighton solution

BRIGHTON and Hove Albion appear before the Football Association today in a bid to solve the bitter takeover dispute which is threatening to destroy the Goldstone Ground club.

Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, will chair a meeting between Bill Archer, the Brighton chairman, and Dick Knight, a local businessman, who has formed a consortium to take over the troubled third division club.

The meeting at a hotel in Lancaster Gate, near FA headquarters, will also be attended by council leaders from Brighton and Hove, and the club's chief executive, David Bellotti.

Kelly called the meeting amid fears that Brighton will fold when they are forced to leave the Goldstone in May next year after selling the ground to developers.

The club has failed to find a site on which to build a replacement stadium and the Football League has lodged official objections to their plans to ground sharing with Portsmouth at Fratton Park.

George Weah scored two goals and Roberto Baggio, a second-half substitute, added a third as AC Milan beat Perugia 3-0 in Italy's Serie A yesterday.

Bruce Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper, made a winning start to his new career as coach of Zimbabwe yesterday when his team beat Tanzania 1-0 in an international match in Harare.

Wimbledon take cultured path to reach dizzy heights

Derby County 0
Wimbledon 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

WELCOME to reality. Derby County, having taken points from Leeds, Tottenham and Manchester United, met their match in a side which looked the genuine article. Yes, Wimbledon.

Anyone who doubted them before this fifth successive victory in the FA Carling Premiership had only to glance at Saturday night's table, which showed Wimbledon in third place, or at this week's international squads, which include eight Wimbledon players.

Not, of course, that Joe Kinnear, their manager, was getting carried away, preferring to recite his usual litany: "We are a closely-knit club, we all stick together and work extremely hard. We'll keep our feet on the ground."

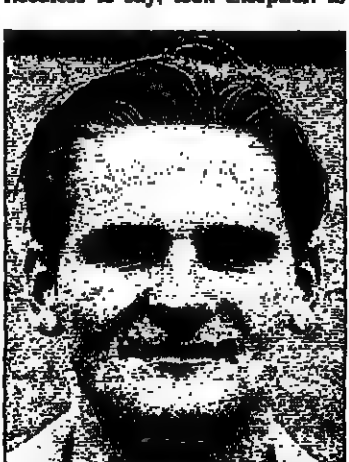
Wimbledon also keep the ball on the ground, despite accusations that they still favour route one. "It does Joe's head in," Vinnie Jones, his captain, said, "and then you watch what they [Derby] were trying to do today..." Kinnear referred only obliquely to Derby's tactics: "We had to withstand a certain amount of pressure, but most of it was long-ball, and we dealt with it," he said.

The pick of Wimbledon's defenders under the aerial bombardment was Chris Perry, known as "Rash" — apparently he has a tendency to get all over his opponents —

although at the Baseball Ground he usually got above and in front of them as well. "He is having an exceptional season," Kinnear said. "There aren't many better centre halves in the country."

Kinnear, of course, likes to talk up his players to increase their resale value, but in Perry's case the praise was completely justified. Although not the tallest of defenders, his spring-heeled leaps allowed him to reach most high balls, while his interceptions and tackles helped to ensure that Sullivan in goal had little to do.

While Derby tested the heading ability of Perry, McAllister and company, Jones and Robbie Earle controlled midfield with short, accurate passes and, for the most part, precise tackles. The crowd, needless to say, took exception to



Ardley: made first goal

every challenge — after all, Wimbledon are a team of kickers, aren't they? — and especially to Jones, whose early contributions were met with jeers.

Jones, playing the elder statesman, refused to rise to the bait. "Every single ground I go to, except Leeds, you've got supporters on your back," Jones said. "Robbie and I had two top midfielders up against us and they were both substituted."

The midfield sorted out. Wimbledon won the match with two second-half goals, the ball barely leaving the ground in either case. Early on, Ardley turned past Darryl Powell, evaded Igor Stimac's tackle and crossed low for Earle to apply the finish. Twenty minutes later, Leonhardson ignored Ekoku's central run in favour of one on the right from Marcus Gayle, who took the ball inside Stimac before turning to hit a low left-foot shot past Hoult.

"Tremendous," was Jones's verdict. "Neal Ardley's bit of skill was unbelievable." He added, jokingly: "I'm sure we've got Liverpool and Manchester United really worried now."

Derby, who missed their best chance when Gabbiadini put a free header over the bar from six yards, might not see the funny side.

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): P. Hoult — G. Powell (sub: L. Carter, 77min), I. Stimac, M. Carson — J. Jones, G. O'Leary, A. Agnew (sub: M. Gabbiadini, 78), D. Powell (sub: P. Serrano, 72), C. Powell — D. Sturridge, A. Ward.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Perry, G. McAllister, A. Vinnie — M. Ardley, R. Earle, V. Jones, O. Leonhardson (sub: D. Blackwell, 88) — F. Ekoku (sub: M. Harford, 89), M. Gayle.

Referee: G. Poll.



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treatment...
Road, R...
Yokoh, Den...

FOOTBALL: HALLMARK GOAL FRUSTRATES WEST HAM AND RESTORES THREE-POINT LEAD AT TOP

Thomas keeps Liverpool out in front

West Ham United 1
Liverpool 2

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WITH a goal that is quintessentially Liverpool — team play, passing and moving, patience and precision — the Reds of Merseyside stay three points clear at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. Their hallmark goal, finished off by Michael Thomas, proved not only that Liverpool can play the continental game and draw opponents to them until they strike, but was a fitting reward for a team that, through injury, had lost its striking partnership and yet now has the resilience that was missing last season to go on and "grind out" results.

Be in no doubt: that second quality, tenacity, was required at Upton Park. For West Ham United, themselves in an early-season injury epidemic, came back from an early goal, equalised and, for nearly half an hour, took the tempo of the game from a team that would be champions, and ultimately only surrendered to that exquisite team goal.

"I would agree, our second goal was fantastic," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "It was the type of thing we are looking for."

The first goal came in the second minute when, after Thomas, from the centre circle, had hit a diagonal through ball, West Ham were caught flat and square. Stan Collymore, much criticised of late, shook off Marc Rieper as he was felled. Indeed, it was Collymore at his best, muscular and hungry. He pushed the ball to Rieper's left, he powered through a half-hearted tackle on Rieper's right, and, from 15 yards, he shot low and true inside the far post.

Economy from Liverpool, naivety from the Hammers. Luděk Mikloško was like Bruce Willis at that moment — *The Last Man Standing*. But he, and his opposite number, David James, were to stretch athletically, right and left, as the game built up.

These days, of course, it is a game of imported talent. By their attitude to foreigners may we know them: Liverpool down-played the introduction of Patrik Berger, and look at the dividends. Harry Red-



James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, survives a determined West Ham assault on goal during the Premiership leaders' victory at Upton Park

knapp promises that Hugo Proff, whom he has procured on loan from Sporting Lisbon, is a world-class talent. Well, Berger was not quite so special as McManaman this day and Proff, just 23, produced flickers of hypnotic footwork without result.

After Collymore had to be led from the field with a knee injury, his goal by then a memory, Liverpool sought to use Berger as the foremost player. "Patrik told us he could play up front," Evans said. "He obviously tells lies occasionally."

In the second half it was McManaman, more willing if

no more accustomed, who took on the centre-forward role. And only towards the end did Evans relieve McManaman by bringing on Les Jones.

The absence of Mark Wright, with a depressed cheekbone fracture, took away Liverpool's authority in the air. Dominic Matteo, on the fringe of England honours and showing much elegance on the ground, cannot command the high ball. And so, with West Ham sending Slaven Bilic and Rieper up for every corner, with Hughes and Bowen galvanising the home team on the left, Liver-

pool were made to look vulnerable at head-height. In the fifteenth minute, for example, Bilic had the freedom of the six-yard box to equalise with a towering header from Hughes's corner.

Then, for nearly half an hour, West Ham closed Liverpool down with sharpness in midfield and, when Thomas gave the ball away, Collymore asked the first splendid save from James. Similarly, just as the second half began, Bishop demanded an even finer deflection from the goalkeeper.

So it looked as though Liverpool might struggle to save the game. But, in the 53rd

minute, came their move *par excellence*. James rolled the ball to his defenders and then, in possibly 14 or 15 passes, too sweet and too numerous to count, Barnes and Manoe, McManaman and Redknapp ensured that no one in claret and blue could get a touch.

Finally, with the thrust of a rapier, McManaman delivered the final pass and Thomas, who had been the target for some despicable racial bigotry from the crowd, exacted revenge with an almost effortless, but again accurate, final stroke of the ball into the net.

Redknapp Sr spoke of his side betraying themselves,

conceding two sloppy goals. That is his version. To the neutral observer, the second one bordered on greatness and, if finally his defenders came out hunting the ball, that was because, in the last resort, they were being toyed with in that move by men superior both in talent and tactical appreciation.

WEST HAM UNITED (2-5-2-1): D. James — J. Barnes (sub: N. Ruddock, 88), D. Matteo, P. Bishop — J. McManaman, M. Thomas, J. Barnes, S. J. Roberts — S. J. Roberts, P. Bishop (sub: L. Jones, 88) — S. Collymore (sub: J. Redknapp, 20).

LIVERPOOL (2-4-2-1): D. James — J. Barnes (sub: N. Ruddock, 88), D. Matteo, P. Bishop — J. McManaman, M. Thomas, J. Barnes, S. J. Roberts — S. J. Roberts, P. Bishop (sub: L. Jones, 88) — S. Collymore (sub: J. Redknapp, 20).

Referee: A. Burns

Streetwise Southampton strike blow for have-nots



Le Tissier: two goals but still plenty of frustration

MIDDLESBROUGH, with only two defeats in seven League outings, fielded Branco, Emerson, Juninho, Barmby and Ravanelli. Southampton, without a win in seven, fielded Moss, Lundekvam, Charlton, Dryden and Oakley. The ludicrously paid against the modestly paid: the haves versus the have-nots; the princes v the paupers. At The Dell on Saturday, Southampton won 4-0.

Thus, the FA Carling Premiership produced one of its glorious upsets. An 80-1 scoreline, according to the pre-match book, that defied the odds when the mighty fall with such a crunch that, for a few hours at least, anything appears possible. It is days like this that Southampton, and those of similar ilk, exist for. Deny them not their moment.

A first League victory, too, for their manager, Graeme Souness, since he had his fill of life in Turkey and settled instead for Hampshire. Time has clearly mellowed the raging bull and, though he still talked a warrior's game, of wanting fire and brimstone from his players, the Souness demean-

Russell Kempson sees Middlesbrough cut down to size by one of the Premiership's poor relations

our was calm, composed and accommodating. "We've been a bit guilty of being too nice," he said. "We've needed to be a bit more aggressive, more streetwise." Southampton scrapped like an LA gang, yet without the final brutality, from Maddison's bone-jarring yet fair challenge on Juninho in the opening seconds — "That set the tempo for us," Souness said — to the aggravating yet excellent seek-and-destroy tactics of Watson.

And then there was Le Tissier, flitting about like a butterfly and, occasionally, stinging like a bee. Two goals — one direct from a corner, one from a surely offside position — tended to glorify an otherwise intermittent display. Still, the plaudits cascaded on him.

"He's always likely to make things happen," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said, before taking

his side off to Thailand for a lucrative two-match tour. "He can win matches on his own." Rather nearer the mark, Robson conceded that Middlesbrough were excruciatingly awful, especially in defence.

"Matthew is still not getting enough of the ball," Souness said. "He has got to be sick of the sight of it. When he says 'They don't pass to me enough,' then perhaps he should go and get it more." Doubts persist about whether Le Tissier will fulfil his potential with Southampton or England, and Souness admitted: "If he finished tomorrow, he would have to say he's never achieved what he should have."

English football's greatest enigma will continue to confuse the wisest as Souness attempts to build a competitive framework around him. Eyal Berkovic, the Israeli midfielder, will join soon, work permit permitting. "Technically, he's bril-

liant," Souness said. "We'll just have to see if he can cope with the Premiership." Such is life in the poor house.

Oakley nudged Southampton ahead and Le Tissier's fluky corner made it 2-0. Maddison headed Ravanelli's fierce shot off the goal line, despite the apparent risk of decapitation, and Le Tissier added his second. In the 83rd minute, Watson received due reward for his industry by claiming the fourth.

Suddenly, Middlesbrough awoke. Ravanelli, the ten-goal Italian, missed a penalty, after Lundekvam had bundled over Moore. Juninho drove wide from an acute angle and Barmby struck the joint of crossbar and post and saw the ball rebound into Moss's grateful arms. Paupers 4 Princes 0. An invigorating day.

SOUTHAMPTON (3-4-2-1): N. Moss — N. Maddison, C. Lundekvam, R. Dryden — M. Oakley, P. Satter, J. N. Heaney, 10min; sub: R. Watson, 75, J. Magilton, S. Charlton — M. Le Tissier — N. Shepperson, G. Watson. MIDDLESBROUGH (2-5-2-1): A. Miller — D. White, S. Vickers (sub: N. Cox, 88), P. Whelan (sub: A. Morton, 84) — C. Fleming, P. Stamp, Emerson, Branco — N. Barmby, Juninho, F. Ravanelli. Referee: R. Ellis

Walsh has word of warning for Graham's depleted Leeds

Leicester City 1
Leeds United 0

By RICHARD HOBSON

CRUEL choruses of "you are going down" to the tune of the summer anthem, *Three Lions*, echoed around Filbert Street on Saturday. No surprise there, except for one rather important detail. Leicester fans were singing, not listening.

Leicester have now taken 11 points from eight games and, having been widely tipped for relegation back to the Nationwide League, they are entitled to soar. Throw in a double over Scarborough in the Coca-Cola Cup, and Leicester have won their last four games. Martin O'Neill, the manager, said he was "ecstatic". But whether George Graham?

His Leeds United side sit precariously next to the bottom three and, by the time the FA Carling Premiership resumes in 12 days' time, his footprints will be imprinted clearly along the walk from the manager's office to the treatment room at Elland Road. Rush, Hateley, Deane, Yeboah, Dorigo, Pemberton

and Bowyer were all absent on Saturday, when Graham's five midfield players had an average age of 20 and Lee Sharpe was forced to play at centre forward.

Better times ought to lie ahead, but Steve Walsh is not so sure. Two years ago, injury restricted the Leicester captain to five appearances as they finished 19 points away from safety. While they made a worse start than Leeds have this season, Walsh believes there is a lesson that needs heading.

"We were surprised at Leeds. They looked a poor team," he said. "No matter what the reasons, you just cannot get away with starting a season badly. Even with the quality of the players who will come back, and the manager, they will find it very hard. If they have a few more games without any points, they are going to be on the verge of big trouble."

Leicester themselves sit comfortably in mid-table. Neil Lennon created the decisive goal after 59 minutes after an error by Wetherall. He went around Ford and shot left-footed across Martyn. The goalkeeper could only parry

the ball and Heskey slid it in. Graham did not appear too worried afterwards. "I do not think we are lacking in confidence, but I would rather blood the youngsters one or two at a time. Some of them are still a year away from the first team, ideally," he said. "At least with so many of them in the side, we are not getting hammered."

There is another way of putting it. You never win anything with kids, and the success of Manchester United last season failed to disprove the theory. How much easier for the Nevilles, Butt and Beckham to be integrated into a side including towering figures like Schuster, Pallister, Keane and Cantona.

More debatable was Graham's assertion that he cannot find players to strengthen his team. "All the good players are at good clubs already," he said. "It is not a question of money, they are just not available."

LEICESTER CITY (2-5-2-1): K. Koller — S. Prior, J. Harris, S. Walsh — S. Grayson, M. Ezzell, M. Lennon, S. Taylor, M. Whitham — J. Marshall (sub: G. Parker, 70min), S. Heskey. LEEDS UNITED (2-5-2-1): N. Martyn — D. Wetherall, C. Palmer, R. Johnson — G. M. Ford, A. Carrone (sub: L. Rodhe, 83), M. Jackson, I. Harte — R. Wallace, L. Sharpe. Referee: S. Davis

Atkinson's well-worn script seriously short of punchlines

Coventry City 0
Blackburn Rovers 0

By DAVID MADDOCK

RON ATKINSON, the Coventry City manager, has the appearance of an ageing cabaret comedian, still touring the working men's clubs, and he has the patter to match. "I like this job," he said, "and I like I like winning, although I'm not sure I can remember."

You almost expected him to come out with that old chestnut, "we were lucky to get nil", because if ever it was appropriate, it was in this game against Blackburn Rovers. He still has the slick style, but one wonders if his best days are behind him.

Atkinson was talking about his job because there is a growing feeling that the old wise-cracker has had his time in the sun: that it might be time for him to hang up the cream suit. The plan to allow Gordon Strachan to take over at the end of the season could be brought forward.

For all the money Atkinson has spent, Coventry's performance suggested only that they can brace themselves for

a long winter of struggle. The manager believes it is his forward line which is failing to deliver. "I didn't think goals would be a problem with the players we have," he said. Yet, concerns run deeper than that. There is the Atkinson style about his side, but the substance is lacking. Coventry rarely looked like winning this dreadful match.

The closest they came was

Results and tables 30
Celtic pay penalty 31
Wasteful Bolton 31

eight minutes from time when Liam Daish rose unchallenged to head a McAllister corner goalwards. Gary Croft was alert, however, to steer the ball away from under the bar, and preserve the point Blackburn had set out to secure.

They too have real problems. Ray Harford, the manager, is good at finding plus points in his side's performance, and it is certainly true that Rovers look like they are a side in the making, if only they could start scoring goals. The fact remains that they are still bottom, and we are nearly a

quarter of the way through the season.

They could have stolen the match when Lars Bohinen was offered a presentable chance ten yards from goal two minutes into injury time. In keeping with the mood of the game, however, he screwed his shot wide when it appeared easier to score. Worse news followed, when Harford revealed that Chris Coleman could miss the rest of the season with a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Sutton did hit the outside of a post for Rovers during the early exchanges, and Flowers, their goalkeeper, was called upon to save smartly from first Salako and then Telfer. That was it, though, and if the supporters were asked to mark the game for entertainment value, then their boos and cat-calls throughout the second half suggested both sides would be lucky to get nil. Boom, boom.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ogilvie — B. Barrow, D. Barnes, L. Oast, M. Hall — P. Telfer, G. McAllister, K. Richardson, J. Salako — D. Doble, N. Whelan. BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — N. Mathur, C. Hendry, C. Coleman (sub: S. Ripley, 78min), G. Croft — G. Davis, T. Shrewsbury, I. Bennett, J. Wilson (sub: M. McKinlay, 84) — K. Gallacher (sub: G. Fenton, 41), C. Sutton. Referee: J. Winter

Putting the case for defence on player's terms

STEVE
McMANAMAN



on a problem of image for footballers

Since I began writing this column for *The Times*, people have asked me why I do it. It's not for the money, that's for sure. Joking aside, there are a couple of very good reasons for me to put pen to paper.

Footballers do not have a particularly good image. If you read the tabloid newspapers, in particular, then you might think we are all a bunch of drunken yobs with a very small IQ and that we are only interested in criticising everyone else inside the game.

It is certainly true that we have a high profile these days — some players are treated like pop stars — yet it is rare that any footballer has the opportunity to get across what he feels about the game, or anything else for that matter.

Newspaper interviews tend to be on the writer's terms. For the player, it is a matter of responding to questions, rather than setting them, and I do not think I'm exaggerating when I say that the tabloids would rather concentrate on a negative rather than a positive. Apparently, it sells newspapers. Speak openly, and your comments can be taken out of context and perhaps used against another member of your profession. Be guarded, and you appear dull, even unintelligent.

Players are practised in the art of saying very little so as not to expose themselves to the possibility of being "twirled", as I believe it is called in the media. Gary Lineker and David Platt have mastered that art and Alan Shearer, the new England captain, is following suit. They all present themselves very well, which is something other professionals will have to learn.

Even in the bigger interviews, it is still a case of responding to an interviewer and hoping that your sentiments are expressed properly. I don't see myself as an ambassador for the players, a spokesman or even as an intelligent footballer. I am just an ordinary bloke who gets asked his opinion a lot and I appreciate the chance to express that opinion without it being distorted.

If the truth be told, I am glad of the chance to show people that I am not the larger lout that I am sure many see me as. I'm no saint. I enjoy a night out with my mates and my girlfriend and, like many blokes in a group environment, I enjoy winding my team-mates up. Yet readers could be forgiven if their perception of me — and many of my colleagues — was very different.

I have not had a really bad time in the press, but there were a couple of incidents with the England party when we went to Hong Kong before the European championship that

didn't put me in a good light. Robbie Fowler and I were accused of being involved in that incident on the plane where a video screen was supposedly damaged. I cannot say too much about it, because there are legal proceedings, but, even though neither of us was involved, I'm sure people thought we were after reading that story. That was very distressing and embarrassing. There were also those pictures from a Hong Kong bar, which I notice were circulated around the papers again this weekend after Gazza talked about drinking. Now, I am the first to admit they did not look very good, but a picture can never tell the full story — and I bet Gazza's comments were not taken in context.

It's true that we had been drinking, but that was only because we were allowed a relaxed night off. The manager said we should all have a social evening together and we did. There were 15 or 16 of us, including Bryan Robson, who was on the coaching staff.

None of us behaved badly — there were no complaints from the people in the bar — and not one of us missed the curfew the England manager had set. Yet we were slaughtered, even though it was still 15 or 16 days away from Euro 96 and, for many of us it was a first night out at the end of a very long, hard season.

I was singled out because I was in all of the pictures, but I was only in the pictures because I had been standing next to Gazza — and the photographers always go for him. As I say, we were drinking, but under the circumstances it was all right, as I think we proved by the way we performed in the championship.

It's this image thing. Lineker and Platt have worked wonders to give themselves a decent image and I think I can be excused for wanting to improve mine.

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Sent off: P. Stewart (Sunderland) 39		
M. Scott (Sunderland) 21		
Arsenal: D. Seaman, L. Dixon, N. Winterburn (sub: P. Shaw, T. Wright), P. Viala (sub: R. Parker, 87 min), S. Bould, A. Adams, D. Platt, I. Probert, P. Morris, M. Keown, J. Harrison, S. Dhillon, A. Collins, M. Scott, P. Bounie (sub: M. Bridges, 70 min), K. Ball, A. Mervin, M. Gray (sub: C. Russell, 81 min), P. Stewart, S. Aghayev, G. Hall, L. Howey, A. Rae (sub: D. Roberts, 20 min).		
Booked: Dracott.		
Referee: P. Davies.		

CHELSEA	(0) 1 NOTT F	(0) 1
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Chelsea: K. Hickcock, D. Peters, F. Lebedev, S. Coria, G. Vial, M. Hughes, D. Wicks, M. Dwyer, C. Barry, A. D. Martin, S. Minto.		
Booked: Hickcock, Lebedev, Hughes, Minto.		
Referee: P. Davies.		

COVENTRY	(0) 0 BLACKBURN	(0) 0
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Coventry City: S. O'Brien, B. Barnes, M. Hall, D. Barnes, L. Doherty, N. Richardson, P. Taylor, G. McAlister, N. Whelan, D. Gable, J. Sallis.		
Blackburn: R. Flowers, C. Coleman (sub: S. Ripley, 70 min), C. Hendry, N. Maher, G. Carr, T. Shawcross, S. Collier (sub: S. Fettes, 41 min), J. Johnson, C. Sutton, G. Dons, J. Wilson (sub: W. McInnes, 80 min).		
Referee: J. Winter.		

DERBY	(0) 0 WIMBLEDON	(0) 2
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Derby County: R. Hoad, G. Powell (sub: L. Carley, 19 min), C. Powell, M. Calton, J. Lynam, J. Sallis, A. Aspinall (sub: M. ...).		

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17.022		
Coventry City: S. O'Brien, B. Barnes, M. Hall, D. Barnes, L. Doherty, N. Richardson, P. Taylor, G. McAlister, N. Whelan, D. Gable, J. Sallis.		
Blackburn: R. Flowers, C. Coleman (sub: S. Ripley, 70 min), C. Hendry, N. Maher, G. Carr, T. Shawcross, S. Collier (sub: S. Fettes, 41 min), J. Johnson, C. Sutton, G. Dons, J. Wilson (sub: W. McInnes, 80 min).		
Referee: J. Winter.		

DERBY	(0) 0 WIMBLEDON	(0) 2
17.022		
Derby County: R. Hoad, G. Powell (sub: L. Carley, 19 min), C. Powell, M. Calton, J. Lynam, J. Sallis, A. Aspinall (sub: M. ...).		

NATIONWIDE

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ARSENAL	(0) 2 SUNDERLAND	(0) 0
30.016		
Sent off: P. Stewart (Sunderland) 39		
M. Scott (Sunderland) 21		
Arsenal: D. Seaman, L. Dixon, N. Winterburn (sub: P. Shaw, T. Wright), P. Viala (sub: R. Parker, 87 min), S. Bould, A. Adams, D. Platt, I. Probert, P. Morris, M. Keown, J. Harrison, S. Dhillon, A. Collins, M. Scott, P. Bounie (sub: M. Bridges, 70 min), K. Ball, A. Mervin, M. Gray (sub: C. Russell, 81 min), P. Stewart, S. Aghayev, G. Hall, L. Howey, A. Rae (sub: D. Roberts, 20 min).		
Booked: Dracott.		
Referee: P. Davies.		

CHELSEA	(0) 1 NOTT F	(0) 1
27.573		
Chelsea: K. Hickcock, D. Peters, F. Lebedev, S. Coria, G. Vial, M. Hughes, D. Wicks, M. Dwyer, C. Barry, A. D. Martin, S. Minto.		
Booked: Hickcock, Lebedev, Hughes, Minto.		
Referee: P. Davies.		

GOALSCORERS	
	Lge
F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)	6
I Wright (Arsenal)	6
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)	4
P Berger (Liverpool)	4
M Le Tissier (Southampton)	4

FOOTBALL: CELTIC PAY HEAVY PENALTY FOR REFEREE'S DECISION NOT TO PENALISE GOUGH'S CHALLENGE ON DI CANIO

Gascoigne underlines firm grasp of need for creativity

FOR the best footballers, creativity is a compulsion. In the last minute of the Old Firm match at Ibrox on Saturday, a header from John Hughes, of Celtic, that might have levelled the score struck the bar. At such moments, fright and relief muddle the mind and the ordinary player would have sought to expel the danger by blasting the ball clear. Paul Gascoigne does not have those orthodox instincts.

Taking possession in the Rangers penalty area, he saw only opportunities for a thrust on the left flank. The move found its outlet in Albert and he lifted a cross over a weary defence to the fringes of Celtic's six-yard box. There was Gascoigne. Having covered 100 yards to complete the move he had initiated, the Englishman stretched, twisted and headed past Marshall to secure a 2-0 victory.

Injuries and his own immaturity have tarnished Gascoigne's career, but a trace of greatness is still visible. His superiority to the men around him is not just a matter of technique, of weight of pass and refinement of touch. It is intentions as much as skills that separate such a figure from the array of competent professionals.

For once in an Old Firm match, however, Rangers did not enjoy a monopoly of audacity. Celtic had, in Paolo Di Canio, an import who was stirred, rather than daunted, by the Glaswegian frenzy and

stimulated too by the peculiar difficulties his team faced. The side lacked both its normal forwards.

Jorge Cadete was merely injured but the absence of Pierre van Hooijdonk is a far more florid tale. A contractual dispute with the club has led to a series of disagreements. On Friday morning, the Dutchman, who is prone to fits of imperiousness, was unwilling to declare himself fit, after a minor injury, and asked for another 24 hours to make his decision. Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, believes his authority is being flouted and has now accused Van Hooijdonk of trying to evade the rules that govern the other players.

Concluding that his authority must be strengthened, even at the cost of weakening the side, Burns dropped the forward from the squad for Ibrox. Di Canio, whose excitability had previously suggested a self-indulgent temperament, treasured the extra responsibility that then lay with him.

The match might well have had a different outcome if the rules of the game had been properly applied in the tenth minute when

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

perverse decision. Di Canio, after all, was lying face down on the pitch and, while he did try to scramble to his feet, he was forced to attempt a shot from a reclining position. Andy Goram blocked it. Rangers, too, found cause to complain about an official in charge of his first Old Firm game, but his refusal to give Celtic a warranted penalty had the greatest ramifications. In addition to having an opportunity to take the lead, the visitors would also have been left facing ten men since Gough's offence, as the last defender, should have been punished with an ordering-off.

As it was, Celtic were to lose a player when Tosh McKinlay, in the 43rd minute, brought the club its eighth dismissal of the season. The full back collected his second yellow card after foolishly handling the ball in Rangers' half. Gough, on the other hand, re-

mained on the pitch and went on to score the opening goal.

When Celtic were not irate, they were exasperated. Even before Hughes hit the bar, Peter Grant had come close to the equaliser with a drive that bounced off the inside of a post and rolled along the goal line to safety. Burns's side have now failed to win any of the last seven Old Firm matches.

The differences in quality between the two teams was marginal on Saturday and the course of the game would have been radically altered by the slightest tweak to events. Rangers now hold a five-point lead in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, but the next meeting of the clubs is only five games away.

While the losers on Saturday will console themselves with the knowledge that chances remain to close the gap, there is now a trend that sees them take only regrets from crucial fixtures. Burns is badly in need of victory over Rangers on November 14, for his future with Celtic is being jeopardised by the string of narrow failures. An absence of luck remains the most common cause for the sacking of managers.

RANGERS (3-5-2): A. Goram — G. Peleic, R. Gough, J. Berland — G. Moore (sub: F. Ferguson), S. McCall, P. Gascoigne, J. Albert, A. Deland — P. Van Vossen, B. Landman. CELTIC (3-5-2): G. Marshall — J. Hughes, A. Stubbs, T. Boyd — J. McGovern, B. O'Neil (sub: B. McLaughlin, 70), P. Grant, A. Thom (sub: M. McHugh, 22), T. McKinlay — P. Di Canio, S. Donnelly. Referee: W. Young.



Landrup, the Rangers winger, is sent crashing by the tackle of Hughes, the Celtic wing back

Jacobs goal worth the wait for Bradford

Port Vale 1
Bradford City 1

By DAVID MAIDMENT

IT WAS a long time in coming, but at least it was worth the wait. Bradford City finally scored a goal away from home after close on 500 minutes of trying. It was enough to earn a point, their first away from home this season.

And a splendid goal it was. Wayne Jacobs, the Bradford full back, penetrated the Port Vale defence, where a host of forwards had failed before him, with a thunderous left-foot free kick from 30 yards that fairly exploded into the top of the net.

The visiting supporters broke into a spontaneous chorus of hallelujah when the goal finally arrived in the 83rd minute, and their players joined together to pose for a mock team photo, such was the relief.

It was well deserved, however, because the Yorkshire side had taken the initiative throughout the contest and had refused to resort to the stock fare of the Nationwide League first division — the long ball — even when all seemed lost.

In fact, both sides can take some credit for their approach on an afternoon more suited to a Gene Kelly movie. It wasn't so much singing in the rain, though, as slipping in it, the treacherous conditions making the determination of the players to attempt a passing game even more admirable.

Not that the credit is undeserved, because for the most part they failed to build on good intentions, rendering the match a sometimes grim spectacle.

There were some moments to at least drive the damp from the spirit. Steve Guppy made a lasting impression down Vale's left flank, and as early as the second minute he signalled his intent with a wicked cross that Gordon Cowans, the veteran midfielder, did well to divert past his own post.

Guppy combined well with Bogie to set up McCarthy soon after, but the weak effort was saved. The winger was not to be denied, however, and when Mohan made a pig's ear of an attempt at a back-pass in the 38th minute, Guppy raced around Nixon, the Bradford goalkeeper, to score.

Bradford's response was to throw on three forwards, and keep playing. The effect was muted at first, only Duxbury troubling the Vale goal with a sharp shot from the edge of the box that was well saved.

But the balance of the game was tipping slowly their way, and Jacobs's goal was reward for perseverance in such appalling conditions.

PORT VALE (4-4-2): A. Van Heusden — A. Hill, N. Aspin, D. Glover, A. Tarkenton (sub: S. Talbot, 56min) — J. McCarthy, A. Porter, I. Bogie (sub: R. Walker, 60), S. Guppy — L. Miles (sub: M. Foyle, 78), A. Naylor. BRADFORD CITY (3-5-2): E. Neeson — R. Lourd, N. Mohan, M. Sae, G. Mitchell (sub: A. Keworth, 48), W. Jacobs — D. Hamilton (sub: E. Riegler, 46), G. Cowans, L. Duxbury — M. Stalder (sub: C. Shutt, 56), I. Moore. Referee: S. Mallinson.

Todd rues Bolton's failure to profit from dominance

Bolton Wanderers 1
Stoke City 1

By PETER BALL

WITH Phil Brown back, now standing gesticulating in the old Bruce Rioch position alongside the bench, rather than settling off along the touchline from right back, and the team at the top of the Nationwide League first division and playing some excellent football, it was like old times at Burnden Park on Saturday. Normal service resumed after one season above their station.

Cambridge begin new drive forward

Exeter City 0
Cambridge United 1

By DAVID POWELL

AS I left the ground, two Exeter City players were driving away in their cars. One was at the wheel of an F-reg, the other in a G. It was a reminder that the game of two halves — the haves and have-nots — is lengthening the pitch.

"The days of a Wimbledon have gone," Reg Smart, the Cambridge United chairman, said, "the gap is too big." Five seasons ago, Cambridge reached the second division play-offs, a chance to ride with the FA Premier League in its first season. They lost in the semi-finals and were relegated twice in three seasons.

While those who entered the 1992 semi-finals with Cambridge — Derby County, Blackburn Rovers and Leicester City — enjoy the benefits of Premiership membership, Cambridge, losing £1,000 a day, has advertised itself for sale.

"We are not going into liquidation tomorrow, it is not that dire," Smart said. In fact, he said, the club made a profit last year, but only by selling players. Selling the club might enable Cambridge to keep its best talent.

Leworthy turns tide for Dover

Dover Athletic 2
Aldershot Town 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

ALDERSHOT Town left Crabble on Saturday keenly aware of the work to be done to climb to the Vauxhall Conference after two masterly pieces of finishing by David Leworthy had given Dover Athletic a comfortable passage through an FA Cup second qualifying round tie.

Dover, happy to avoid tripping up against Icis League first division opposition for a second successive time after losing to Bognor Regis Town last year, gave further confirmation that they are settling down under the management of Joe O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan was promoted

It has taken Bolton Wanderers commendably little time to recover from the disappointment of that Premiership year. Stubbs and Currie have gone, and Stubbs may be missed, but the arrival of Frandsen and Johansen means that the squad has suffered little, as the league table suggests, and the bank balance is healthier.

On Saturday, they dominated the game against one of their closest rivals. Only the result let them down. Graham Kavanagh, Stoke's on-loan midfielder player, snatching an equaliser in the closing moments. "We were 30 seconds away from winning," Colin

"It costs about £14-15,000 a week to run the club," Ivor Doble, the Exeter chairman, said. When Peter Fox, the Exeter manager, dedicated his programme notes to Cambridge's plight, it was out of empathy. Exeter have only just emerged from two years in administration.

While even the Premiership minnows splash out, Exeter's record transfer outlay, £65,000 for Tony Kellow in 1980, looks set in stone. The £10,000 spent on Steve Flack this month was Exeter's first buy for many a year.

"Three or four years ago, to buy an average player, you had to pay a £10,000 signing-on fee," Doble said. "Now, in 99 per cent of division three cases, there is no signing-on fee. The win bonuses are still there, but at a much more reasonable figure."

Not that Exeter's players are earning many after five defeats in their past six League matches. Cambridge, with a goal from McGleish, moved up to fourth. Promotion bonuses may be on their way. Exeter's players will have to keep their old cars.

EXETER CITY (4-4-2): A. Bann — Richardson, B. Gable, M. Balle, J. Shaper — B. McCornell, C. Myers, M. Dally (sub: T. Steele, 50min), I. Woodcock — L. Bradburn (sub: S. Grayhoad, 51), S. Flack. CAMBRIDGE UNITED (3-5-2): S. Bannell — D. Thompson, J. Crowther, D. Givens — M. Joseph, W. Baul, P. Worsley, M. Hyde, J. Bannell — A. Richards, S. McGleish (sub: P. Shewers, 64), C. Goble (sub: K. Egan, 65). Referee: M. Pearce.

Todd, the Bolton manager, reflected.

Shades of last season. And, worryingly for Bolton, for all the good football, Saturday's game suggested that, if they go up, the same fate as last time could befall them.

Frandsen was outstanding, winning the ball strongly and using it perceptively and accurately. Unlike Currie, he kept the Bolton attacks flowing with his passes rather than going off on individual sorties, and both Sellars and Thompson benefited.

Thompson has settled in central midfield with Sellars outside him. "I think I've improved a lot as a player," Thompson said. "I got stuck from the fans last season, and I wanted to show them I'm not a failure." He is doing that, his partnership with Frandsen working well.

The only things to mar Thompson's day was a yellow card for a tackle from behind — and the Stoke equaliser. "It was my third booking of the season," Thompson said ruefully. "I get a bit excited and go for the ball when it isn't mine."

For all Bolton's excellent football, though, they ended up with only one goal, scored by Blake when the otherwise solid Sigurdsson made his one mistake, and with only one point. They are already among the favourites for promotion, but missed chances could provide a warning of what may lie ahead.

"They created a lot of chances, but they didn't capitalise on them, and that was their downfall in the end," Kavanagh, the Stoke goalkeeper, said. "I think we only had two shots and the third was a goal."

"We lost possession and one pass caused us a bit of a problem," Todd admitted. "It's a bit of a learning process." But with two internationals, Bolton's back four is not lacking experience — the relevant question is: can you teach old defenders new skills?

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Bremner — G. Briggs, G. Fildes, G. Hargreaves, J. Phillips — M. Johansen (sub: A. Todd, 70min), P. Frandsen, A. Thompson, S. Sellers (sub: D. Lee, 68) — M. McCann (sub: S. Taylor, 87), N. Blake. STOKES CITY (4-4-2): C. Maguire — A. Pearson, I. Scudamore — D. Worthington — M. Owen (sub: J. McMahon, 45), R. Williams, G. Kavanagh, J. Foskett — M. Shewers, J. Goble (sub: K. Egan, 65). Referee: G. Garside.

Rovers relishing return to roots

Bristol Rovers 2
Chesterfield 0

By PAY GIBSON

IT WILL never replace Goodnight Irene as the supporters' song but *There's No Place Like Home* might have been more appropriate as Bristol Rovers showed on Saturday that they are beginning to settle down in new surroundings after ten long years of exile at Twerton Park, Bath.

The Memorial Ground, headquarters of Bristol Rugby Club, may not be Eastville, Rovers' ancestral pile which went to the dogs or, more precisely, the greyhounds a

decade ago. It is in the blue and white quarter of the City, however, and the Gas Heads, so called because of the huge gasometer which used to dominate the old place, are much happier now.

"I cannot describe how it feels to be back in Bristol," Ian Holloway, the player-manager, said. "We were Bath Rovers and it hurt when the City fans were singing: 'There's only one team in Bristol.'"

Holloway, who is in his third spell with Rovers, was not the only Bristolian who was pleased to be back. Jamie Cureton supported Rovers as a boy but was given his chance by Norwich City. Holloway has now taken him on loan for

a month with a view to a £250,000 transfer and he scored the two goals which ended Chesterfield's run of four successive away victories.

Perhaps it was the environment which knocked them out of their stride. The Memorial Ground does not look much like a soccer stadium at the moment because of work on a new £2 million stand. The pitch was bigger and the grass longer than they are used to.

Chesterfield might have scored twice in the first two minutes but Rovers gradually wore them down and deservedly took the lead in the 58th minute when Cureton darted in between two defenders to score with a diving header. Ten minutes later,

after a Lockwood corner, he drove into the roof of the net from the narrowest of angles.

These were the first goals Chesterfield had conceded away from home since April and it was an admission of defeat when they took off Mercer 15 minutes from the end to prevent him from doing any further damage to a thigh injury and put Law, a defender, in goal. He collected two stitches in a cut above the eye for his pains.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A. Collett — L. Mann, R. Clark, A. Tison, G. Power — A. Gurney, I. Holloway, J. Sumner, L. Archer (sub: M. Lockwood, 13min) — J. Cureton, P. Beadle. CHESTERFIELD (4-3-3): B. Mercer (sub: N. Law, 73) — J. Hewitt, M. Williams, S. Dyche, L. Rogers — T. Curtis, S. Goughan (sub: C. Beaumont, 64), M. Jones (sub: C. Perkins, 78) — J. Howard, N. Davies, A. Lomax. Referee: D. Orr.



PARTIALLY SIGHTED,
A MISSING LIMB...

...it didn't hinder
Nelson and it won't
stop the crew of the
Time & Tide.

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HENRI LLOYD

Julian Muscat celebrates a unique achievement on the British Turf

Bettori leaps beyond boundaries

For two centuries jockeys were little more than the Turf's children. They were seen but not heard; they responded only when addressed. So much so that Lester Piggott's early career provoked a deep hostility, particularly from the Ascot stewards, who banned him for a year after the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes in 1954.

Frankie Dettori has broken those shackles. His unique feat in riding all seven winners at Ascot on Saturday was no accident of circumstance. Accumulative odds of 25,095-1 testify to the outrageous, yet Dettori's natural talent was always destined to crumple numbers in a statistically oriented sport. The sublime is defined by such achievement, and Dettori, peerless in his affinity with horses, was born to triumph.

Some maintain that Piggott's achievements stand alone; will remain so for time immemorial. Now is not the time to dispute the argument. However, what makes Dettori's coming so heartwarming is his desire to disperse the thrill. In the moment of triumph, Piggott's deadpan expression evoked more curiosity than attraction. Dettori's spontaneous celebrations sweep the public to the crest of a joyous wave. From stable lad to assembled royalty, everyone celebrates with him.

The bookmakers will assert that he has taken some of the chance out of racing. As the Dettori show unfurled, the public embraced the possibilities and shovelled cash on his mounts. Perhaps the most telling moment came when the BBC Grandstand programme interrupted the classified football results to bring live pictures of Dettori's sixth ride. For once, millions of punters played second fiddle to those with equine investments.

Dettori's exuberance may be fuelled by the emotional poverty of his youth. From a broken home, Dettori, born 25 years ago on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia, spent part of his youth in the care of a Catholic nun while his father, Gianfranco, pursued his own riding career in Italy. It was an existence rich in wisdom but lacking the excitement youngsters crave.

On his arrival in Newmarket ten years ago, Dettori was all but adopted by Luca Cumani, a long-standing family friend who indoctrinated Dettori to life's hazards. Dettori's equanimity in victory and defeat was learned within the walls of Cumani's Bedford House stables. Three years ago, on the occasion he strayed by accepting a Hong Kong post without consulting his

mentor, Cumani did the young jockey by far his biggest service. He turned him away, and did not speak to him for more than a year.

The stint in Hong Kong never materialised after Dettori attracted the interest of the Metropolitan Police after a night in London. He was keeping the wrong company; in grave danger of trashing his talent. Without Cumani's support, he spent a season riding freelance, when Ian Balding largely assumed the fatherly role so prevalent in Dettori's life.

Then came the offer to ride for John Gosden, the favoured trainer of Sheikh Mohammed. Gosden has been equally influential in Dettori's unfolding career, springing to his defence, protecting him from situations which youth is ill-equipped to handle. "It's fair to say that his career was at a crossroads when he came to me," Gosden reflected, "and he had to make a number of choices. He'd had two or three problems, after which it was up to him to follow the example of Lester Piggott or fade into oblivion."

"It was hard for him when he fell out with Luca but he came back, shaved his head and ground out a winter on the all-weather," Gosden continued. "When I saw him do that, I knew he had turned the corner. It also helps that Frankie is prepared to sit down and discuss things. He is fun and games on the racecourse but tough and resilient underneath. But it's a question of controlling the spark. If he didn't have that, he would have been ordinary and boring."

Interestingly, Gosden emphasised his relationship with Dettori works both ways. The trainer, who has himself endured a period of turbulence this season, said: "There have been times this year when I have wondered whether it was worth carrying on. I have been hurt once or twice but Frankie helped me out; helped me to look forward."

Earlier this month, Gosden breached a significant dam, landing his first British classic winner when Shantou took the St Leger. Dettori has savoured many such moments, yet his emotions took over, the bond between them emphasised when he lifted the lowering Gosden clean off his feet in the midst of a television interview. Evidence of Dettori's equanimity is everywhere. He has trademarked a flying dismount from the saddle of major winners, although sadly, there remain a handful of objects who cannot grasp its significance. Through the medium of television, Dettori is byjumping from racing's narrow boundaries into millions

of living rooms. The sport's profile has never been higher. Dettori is the formula horse racing has always sought but, until now, found. To see the majority among 20,000 racegoers flock for a sight of Dettori returning triumphant from his final ride on Saturday was to understand the impact Dettori has generated. Even bookmakers saw some proverbial silver within the clouds. "We estimate the industry lost £15 million on Saturday," said Ladbrokes's PR director, Mike Dillon. "It is disastrous in the short term but we believe it was a wonderful day for racing. In the longer term it

should open people's eyes to the excitement of betting."

So Dettori's spree extends alongside the 12 consecutive winners — gained over three days — by Gordon Richards in 1933. It stands as a monument to a talent so outstanding that it knows no boundaries. In ten years, Dettori has metamorphosed from a weedy teenager who could speak no English to the man who has people hanging on his every word. On Saturday, Dettori ensured that the message spread way beyond racing's regular audience.

Bookmakers lose, page 1
Leader, page 21



Dettori marks riding all seven winners at Ascot on Saturday with a flying dismount from Fujiyama Crest

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Bookmakers lose, page 1
Leader, page 21

Reams Of Verse profits from Eddery's trials

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

A CONTEST from which shafts of light were expected yielded only confusion when Reams Of Verse upset her better-fancied stablemate, Sleepytime, to land the group one Fillies' Mile at Ascot yesterday.

For Pat Eddery, who rode Sleepytime in preference to the winner, the contest encapsulated a frustrating meeting as he probed in vain for racing room in the final furlong. Sleepytime had plenty left to offer, but Michael Kinane, who gave Reams Of Verse a text-book ride, determined that the favourite's supporters went home ashen-faced.

Eddery insisted: "I would definitely have won with a clear run. She was squeezed out and when we got free it was too late." In a contest with serious overtones for next year's 1,000 Guineas, bookmakers differed in their views. William Hill shortened Sleepytime to 9-2 from 11-2. Coral maintained its pre-race quote of 5-1 but Ladbrokes elevated Reams Of Verse (5-1) above Sleepytime, now a 6-1 chance.

RICHARD EVANS

Nags: SABINA (2.00 Bath)
Next best Slip The Net (3.00 Bath)

Richard Evans completed an 8-1 double with his nag, Mark Of Esteem, and River Link on Saturday, and nipped Reams Of Verse (5-1) at Ascot yesterday. He also selected Wall Street (2-1) and Dazzled Hero (7-1) in his guide to Saturday's televised races.

Even Henry Cecil, who trains these two high-class performers, declined to split them. "The whole of their work at home is based around them drawing up and quickening, which suits Sleepytime as she has a turn of foot," he said. "At a strong racing pace it would suit Reams Of Verse, who has more experience. With the winter over, you'd like to think she'd be a live Guineas filly."

For all Sleepytime's tribulations, Reams Of Verse prevailed by 14 lengths from Khassah, herself bristling with promise, with Sleepytime another neck behind. It was a verdict to which Reams Of Verse was entitled after her May Hill triumph two weeks earlier. Red Camellia finished with a whisker of Sleepytime in fourth, and her straying from a straight course initiated Eddery's problems. Connections ventured that Red Camellia may not have seen out the mile.

DETTORI YESTERDAY

2.00 Sunbeam Dance 4th (7-2).
2.35 Medea 5th (3-1).
3.10 Hat's Pal 2nd (6-1 fav).
3.50 Logic 5th (50-1).
4.25 Daint unplaced (9-1).
5.00 Duel At Dawn 4th (20-1).
5.35 Altamura WON (13-2).

John Gosden, who trains Khassah, will almost certainly see his filly taken to Dubai for the winter before her return in the spring. However, Gosden will have Benny The Dip on campus. The colt, who fended off Desert Star at Doncaster last time, had that rival to beat in the closing stages to the GTECH Royal Lodge Stakes. He responded manfully, forging ahead in the closing stages after a memorable tussle.

Gosden enthused of Benny The Dip: "He took the lead, idled in front, got headed, then got brave. He can only improve, although I'll be surprised if he stays 12 furlongs next year." Named after a character from a Damon Runyon novel, Benny The Dip is 20-1 for the 2,000 Guineas.

The third place taken by Besiege initiated Cecil's rally after Godolphin's trainer, Saeed bin Suroor, streaked clear in the trainers' championship with four winners on Saturday. The Warren Place handler is now all but back on terms in advance of the big Newmarket meeting, which starts tomorrow.

Those who ventured to Ascot to support Frankie Dettori's mounts were determined until the seventh and final race before drawing a dividend. Dettori closed the meeting on a high note when conjuring a storming run from Altamura in the Harvest Stakes. "The lucky last," he exclaimed as he scrambled to weigh in for the last time on a weekend he will never forget.

Before the meeting, Dettori would surely have settled for the scintillating victory of Mark Of Esteem in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes on Saturday. The 2,000 Guineas winner turned in an exceptional performance to outrun Boera Sham, herself winner of the 1,000 Guineas, with First Island four lengths third.

Dominic Gardiner-Hill, the official handicapper, provisionally assessed Mark Of Esteem's performance as the best on a European racecourse for four years. "It was the best by any horse over the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes," Gardiner-Hill said.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot: Going: good. 1.20 (11) 1. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 2. RILEY (H) (5-2) 3. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 4. RILEY (H) (5-2) 5. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 6. RILEY (H) (5-2) 7. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 8. RILEY (H) (5-2) 9. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 10. RILEY (H) (5-2) 11. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 12. RILEY (H) (5-2) 13. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 14. RILEY (H) (5-2) 15. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 16. RILEY (H) (5-2) 17. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 18. RILEY (H) (5-2) 19. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 20. RILEY (H) (5-2) 21. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 22. RILEY (H) (5-2) 23. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 24. RILEY (H) (5-2) 25. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 26. RILEY (H) (5-2) 27. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 28. RILEY (H) (5-2) 29. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 30. RILEY (H) (5-2) 31. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 32. RILEY (H) (5-2) 33. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 34. RILEY (H) (5-2) 35. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 36. RILEY (H) (5-2) 37. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 38. RILEY (H) (5-2) 39. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 40. RILEY (H) (5-2) 41. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 42. RILEY (H) (5-2) 43. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 44. RILEY (H) (5-2) 45. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 46. RILEY (H) (5-2) 47. HANNAH (H) (5-2) 48. 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RUGBY UNION

World Cup kicks off with beer match in Riga

If the 179th match in the World Cup, at a plush new Cardiff Arms Park on November 6, 1999, will decide who will be the champions of rugby into the next millennium, the first, at the rickety old University Stadium in Riga on Saturday, decided nothing more substantial than who would pay for the beer. A World Cup match maybe, but some ancient rites have to be preserved.

The post-match sing-song, executed in a Babel of languages, from Latvian through Russian to Norwegian and Welsh, made up in gusto what it lacked in musicality. The end is three years away. Moldova and Croatia, the other members of the group, can wait. For the moment, the table in European qualifying group two (round A) puts Latvia atop the world (points for 44, points against 6) and if that — and the biggest victory in the country's 30-year rugby history — was not an excuse for a night on the town, what was?

By the early hours, the old Baltic port was awash with the sorrows of the Norway team.

"A game like that makes you think," Roar Gjertson, the hooker, muttered into his beer. "It makes you think it is time to retire." Gjertson had left every one of his 40 years that afternoon.

The Norwegians were overpowered up front and outpaced in the backs. "I have never been pushed around like that in my life," he added with a shake of his head.

Given that the Norwegians' preparations had begun and ended with a one-hour training session the previous afternoon, the lack of cohesion was hardly surprising. With their four clubs hopelessly dispersed and money tight, their hopes of victory were fuelled largely by a stirring call to arms by their Australian-born captain, Paul Kelly.

"Wear your colours with pride, mate," he told his players in the sauna-like dressing-room moments before Norway's World Cup debut. Eight Norwegians, two Englishmen, a Frenchman, an Australian, a Welshman, a Dutchman and a New Zealander agreed they would.

ANDREW LONGMORE



follows the first steps on the road to Cardiff

After all, it is not every day you get to play in the World Cup. Across the passageway, Uldis Bauris, the Latvia coach, was giving his team of eight Latvians and seven Russians their final instructions. The previous weekend, the league match between the country's top two sides, Latgale, predominantly Russian, and Ri-

then and the players were semi-professionals. Now, Bauris's part-time job as coach of Riga Miesnicks is paid for by an English-born butcher, who sponsors the team to the tune of £750 a month. Miesnicks is Latvian for "butchers".

Four of the country's five clubs are formed from the remains of the old RAF (Riga Automobile Factory) club, with players divided up like kids in the playground. The fifth is the Latvian Exiles, a hotchpotch of ex-pats, locals and passers-by.

Starved of funds, rugby survives on the Latvians' flair for combat and tenacious family tradition. The 1999 World Cup was barely ten minutes old when a crew-cut 17-year-old winger sneaked over in the corner for the first try of Latvia's eight. Guntars Skukauskis learnt his rugby from watching his father, Peter, play for Latvia in the Seventies, but he was as blissfully ignorant of the significance of the moment as he was of his own talent. What did he want with professional rugby, he said, when he had a five-year contract to tend the ground at his own club in Riga?

Not that rugby's new-found wealth will be much use to him anyway. One camera crew, two banners and a Spanish referee was the extent of international rugby's interest.

Norway's assistant manager and a former Latvia player ran the lines. A crowd of barely 200 reflected the inadequacy of the advertising as much as rugby's minority status. Latvian television devoted 30 seconds to the match. "It did not feel much like the World Cup," Sokolovs admitted. "But then he was still furious at his scrum half for not giving him a chance to make history. 'You know, I really wanted to score the first try in the World Cup,' he said."

"But my scrum half, he looked at me and then went the other way. I will have to deal with him later," I suggested that scoring the last try in the World Cup would be better and he laughed. It would only take 14 more matches. Then someone might take notice.

'A former Latvia player and Norway's assistant manager ran the lines'

gas Miesnicks, mostly Latvian, had been abandoned in a free-for-all.

The glistering black eyes of Dzinjars Zavadskis bore witness to the ferocity of the rivalry, an example, some of the hard-line nationalists in the parliament would have us believe, of the unyielding bitterness between the two ethnic groups which make up the majority of Latvia's 2.7 million population. "No, no," Vilmaris Sokolovs, the Latvia lock, said, looking horrified at the thought. "The fight was not about politics, it was sport."

Bauris can remember the old days when his club, VEF, the works side of the giant electro-technical plant in Riga, had to travel 5,000 miles to play the champions, Krasnojarsk, in the Soviet league. The journey took two days and three refuelling stops. But travel was cheap



Allen, the Northampton replacement for Bell, keeps Carling at bay at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Carling adjusts to change of perspective

Northampton 15
Harlequins 20

BY ALISON KEVIN

HOT on the heels of Will Carling's announcement that he was resigning as England captain at the end of last season came the unlikely proposal that he wished to be considered to play at stand-off half for his country.

Was this some kind of joke? The suggestion certainly did not leave alternative England stand-off halves quaking in their boots. But, after a summer of hard training, and fulfilling the kicking duties for Harlequins early in the season, Carling satisfied his ambition, at least at club level, on Saturday when he took the field as the No 10 against Northampton.

It was not the easiest game in which to try out his newly-refined skills, playing against Paul Grayson, the incumbent England stand-off, and with

Gregor Townsend, one of the world's finest exponents of the art, playing in the centre for Northampton.

The former England captain had an inauspicious start — his first kick of the game flew into touch on the full, much to the amusement of the 8,000-strong crowd at Franklin's Gardens, but he started to settle into his new role and used his bullish centre play to great effect in his new position.

His nerves, so apparent in the first ten minutes, seemed to disappear when he returned to the pitch after having six stitches inserted around his eye. Perhaps his inability to see the big, hard tackles coming his way imbued him with a new self-confidence.

He kicked a penalty immediately on his return to the pitch, then crashed through the Northampton defence to score a try, which he converted. His efforts reinforced an early unconverted try from Jim Staples. Harlequins's fi-

nal try came after a Matt Dawson kick was charged down, for Huw Harries to go over.

This was undoubtedly Harlequins' toughest encounter to date and, in the end, the difference between the sides was the league leaders' front five. It is becoming increasingly hard to imagine how any team is going to win against

this phenomenal Harlequins pack.

Northampton battled well — their back row of Rodder, Pountney and MacKinnon did a sterling job, motivated, according to club sources, by a Bristol player who spoke to Rodder at England training this week and told him that Bristol would have beaten Harlequins if they had been more aggressive. Apparently, Rodder returned to Northampton breathing fire, ready to be as aggressive as was necessary.

That passion was there in abundance on Saturday, as he put in some ferocious tackling — particularly on Carling. It is easy to imagine how destructive Rodder could have been against another pack.

The first Northampton try was a textbook illustration of how to make a score out of nothing. Pountney stole the ball from Harlequins and passed on to Grayson, who spotted Bell coming in on an angle for the try-scoring pass.



Rodder: breathing fire

Townsend was disappointing. The Scotland international is so often the pivot around which Northampton spin their three-quarter moves, but, on this occasion, his only moment of magic was in sending a beautiful pass to Nick Beal, which allowed the wing to go over for Northampton's second try.

The only disappointment for Harlequins, as they reflect on this match, will be their failure to capitalise on their rugby league players, Gary Connolly and Robbie Paul, the latter making his debut this week.

SCORERS: Northampton: Tries: Bell, Beal. Conversion: Grayson. Penalty goal: Grayson. Harlequins: Tries: Staples, Carling, Harries. Conversion: Carling. Penalty goal: Carling. NORTHAMPTON: 1. Hunter, N. Beal, G. Townsend, J. Bell, H. Thorneycroft, P. Grayson, M. Dawson, M. Volland, A. Cawte, M. Lewis, D. MacKinnon, J. Phillips, S. Foster, A. Pountney, T. Rodder. Ball replaced by M. Allen (45-50m, 50). HARLEQUINS: J. Staples, D. O'Leary, G. Connolly, P. Mearns, P. Paul, W. Carling, H. Harries, J. Leonard, K. Wood, J. Benesch, R. Jenkins, G. Lewis, G. Lewis, L. Calverley, W. Dawson, J. Davies, replaced by J. Pickup (50), N. Watson temporary replacement for Carling (23-33). Referee: E. Morrison (Stroud).

Disturbing trends highlighted by ill-tempered affair

Bath 46
West Hartlepool 10

BY PETER BILLS

FOR those of us who considered this Courage Clubs Championship first division encounter to be a nasty, smouldering game, the slugging match which followed was the last straw.

I abandoned football reporting some years ago precisely because of the kind of events which happened both during and after this game. We should be seriously concerned about rugby going the same way.

After the unsavory deeds on the field, which led to one player being sent off and four receiving the yellow card, the combatants emerged from the dressing-rooms ready for more.

Given that the player sent off, de Jonge — for his second yellow-card offence — and the others cautioned, Ring, Peacock and Hartland, were all from West Hartlepool, it was the visitors who were firmly in the dock.

There is no way their sort of attitude can prevail in a professional game," Brian Ashton, the Bath director of coaching, said. "When they were penalised, they wanted to prolong the argument and were frequently penalised another ten yards. Is that not a professional foul? Unfortunately, we got drawn into it."

There is no place for such a cynical attitude. If our matches are going to be like that, they won't be worth watching."

John Hall, the club's director of rugby, echoed such views. "I was disappointed with their approach. To me, Mark Ring (the West Hartlepool player-coach) has lost the plot. It's just not right; that sort of rugby has gone. The game has cleaned itself up and it's not very positive to come out and play like they did. I don't like criticising referees, but there should have been sterner warnings early on."

Phil de Glanville, the Bath captain, said: "They just came to niggle us. After every tackle there were cheap shots going in."

Ring, naturally, took an opposing view. "Bath just want to play touch rugby and I was bitterly disappointed with the referee," he said. "Just look at the linesmen and referee, their kit was a disgrace, straight out of Oxford. I wonder why we have not got three quality officials to handle a game at this level."

"If the referee looks at the video, he will see it is an absolute horror story for him. There was no consistency at all."

"Hall should look at the commitment shown by his players. They are not a physical side in a physical game and against better sides they are going to get exposed. I have a feeling Bath are on the way down. They were the team trying to slow the game down."

West Hartlepool's spoiling tactics succeeded for surprisingly long periods. Their spirit was commendable but their tactics were totally unnecessary, Bath were unwise to be drawn into the verbal and physical mayhem, the worst of which came after 13 minutes with a fight involving most of the players on the field.

When Bath were able to break free, they were obviously far superior, quicker in thought and deed. Sleight-of-hand crossed in each half and other tries came from Robinson, Adebayo, Adams and de Glanville.

Their opponents, who lost Murphy with a broken arm after 21 minutes, won a surprising amount of loose ball but squandered it with some ludicrously over-ambitious miss-moves and long passes among the backs. De Glanville's interception, which preceded his 90-yard dash for his try, followed one such absurdity.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Singhthorne (2), Robinson, Adebayo, Adams, de Glanville. Conversion: Callard (5). Penalty goals: Callard (2). West Hartlepool: Try: S. John. Conversion: Shaw. Penalty goal: C. John. BATH: J. Callard, J. Singhthorne, P. de Glanville, H. Paul, A. Adebayo, M. Carr, A. Neer, D. Nelson, G. Adams, J. Mallett, A. Robinson, M. Hogg, B. Cusack, N. Thomas, E. Peters. WEST HARTLEPOOL: M. Shaw, K. Oshane, S. John, C. John, G. Trueman, M. Ring, M. Rodwell, W. de Jonge, A. Peacock, V. Hartland, A. Brown, D. Mitchell, C. Murphy, J. Jones, R. Earnshaw, R. Rodwell, replaced by C. Lee (10m); Murphy replaced by G. Whipp (21). Referee: C. White (Somerset).

Woodward still manages to look on bright side of life

London Irish 23
Saracens 37

BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

SPEND a Saturday afternoon with London Irish down at Sunbury and the chances are you will hurry home to scour the family tree in search of Celtic blood. The welcome is warm, the humour considerable and refreshment inevitably flows.

"Always Look on the Bright Side of Life," the public address system exhorted on the final whistle of this Courage Clubs Championship first division game and the exiles are adept at doing just that. "We're not a club for crises," Gary Halpin, the captain, said, but a fourth defeat in five games, three of them at home, suggests that the winter may well test even the Irish propensity for optimism.

London Irish have invested heavily to lure several members of the Ireland team to Sunbury and, a solitary victory over Northampton apart, they have not seen much of a return. The team is simply not functioning as it should, particularly behind the scrum, where penetration is decidedly lacking.

"It's the little things that lose you games," Clive Woodward, the coach, said. "We got too many little things wrong today." Like missing touch to allow Saracens to run straight back and score two tries; like getting caught offside and turned over far too often.

Saracens made losing possession into an art form against West

Hartlepool last week, and the coaching staff has been preaching ball retention ever since. "The players felt they disgraced themselves," Rob Cunningham, the coach, said of that 25-16 defeat. "Last week we lost our self-respect; this week the players got it back."

Saracens were not that great, but they did enough to control the game, particularly against the wind in the second half. Humphreys had two penalty attempts after the interval, either of which would have given London Irish the lead, but both of which went wide. This was the turning point.

Saracens had taken an early lead through Lee's dropped goal. Johns then added the first of two tries scored by Ireland internationals against the exiles. Woods



Halpin: optimistic

reduced the deficit when he intercepted a Sella pass and ran in from halfway but then Ebongalame produced the try of the game.

"We've been trying to get the ball in his hands for weeks," Cunningham said. "There's no one faster in the first division." English-born of Cameroonian descent, Ebongalame came off his wing at speed before exchanging passes with Tuning and wrong-footed the Irish defence with a doubling sidestep.

Two tries in four minutes, for Hill and Ravenscroft, settled the outcome in Saracens' favour after Humphreys had missed his kicks. A penalty try gave the Irish faint hope with eight minutes left, but Richard Wallace rounded things off with a try in the corner.

London Irish have gone to Devon for a two-day break to snuff out their season so far. Woodward had hoped that they would have half-a-dozen points to their name by this stage and he has his work cut out to turn things round before Bath's visit this weekend. "I've just been given the chairman's full support," he joked on Saturday. Much more of this, however, and matters will become rather more serious.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: Woods, penalty try. Conversion: Humphreys (2). Penalty goals: Humphreys (2). Saracens: Tries: Johns, Ebongalame, Hill, Ravenscroft, R. Wallace. Conversion: Tuning (2). Last, Penalty goal: Tuning. Dropped goal: Lee. LONDON IRISH: C. O'Shea, M. Woods, R. Henderson, P. Frost, J. Bickel, D. Humphreys, N. Biers, L. Mooney, J. Kellam, G. Halpin, A. Douglas, G. Fisher, J. Davidson, K. Dawson, B. Walsh. SARACENS: A. Tuning, R. Wallace, P. Sella, S. Ravenscroft, M. Ebongalame, A. Lee, K. Braden, A. Ower, C. O'Leary, P. Wallace, G. Clark, P. Johns, A. Gossy, R. Hill, A. Denney. Captain replaced by D. Zaltzman (51m). Referee: A. Rowden (Berkshire).

McDowell heads anti-drugs campaign

LLANELLI will launch an anti-drugs campaign today in the wake of last week's disclosure that Paul Jones, their lock forward, has tested positive for using anabolic steroids (David Hands writes). Jones, who has not played this season, will go before a Welsh Rugby Union tribunal, probably on Wednesday, which will decide his punishment.

The club's campaign, backed by a fast-food chain, will be headed by Steve McDowell, the former All

Blacks prop who arrived in Wales four days ago and will play for Llanelli this season. "We felt the best examples in world rugby were in New Zealand, where they random-test throughout the season," Stuart Gallagher, the Llanelli chairman, said.

"It was felt that if players like Steve go into the community, they can speak out against the use of anabolic steroids," Gallagher added. "We honestly believe that an initiative like this can help stamp

out the misuse of drugs once and for all."

Both Mark Giacheri and Julian Gardner, the Australian forwards who have represented Italy over the past three years, are missing from the squad preparing for the international against Wales in Rome on Saturday. However Diego Dominguez, who scored 16 points in the 31-26 defeat suffered by Italy in Cardiff a year ago, is among the 31 players, of whom half are drawn from Treviso and Milan.

Leicester take the points but fail to reach the heights

Leicester 32
Gloucester 14

BY BARNEY SPENDER

LEICESTER scored four fine tries and collected two valuable Courage Clubs Championship first division points for a win, but there was still a vaguely empty feeling when the referee, Stewart Piercy, blew his whistle for the last time at Welford Road on Saturday.

Not the standing ovation from the 10,000 crowd that had greeted the Leicestershire cricketers when they paraded the county championship trophy before the kick-off, just a muted cheer and home for tea.

Perhaps the reason for this antipathy was that the match came frustratingly close to being a real cracker without ever quite reaching the heights.

There was a full-blooded front-row battle and sufficient moments of genuine class to show that both sides were capable of imaginative and quick-witted rugby, most notably demonstrated by the tries of Steve Hackney and Eral Anderson. But there were also far too many errors to make it an entirely pleasing affair. Too many turnovers, too many wayward passes and too much running up blind alleys.

And there was the constant interference from Piercy's whistle which brought an inordinately high penalty count, caused principally by the Gloucester spoiling tactics.

On another day, with another referee, Gloucester might have gone unpenalised, but this time their scant regard for the offside laws repeatedly got them into trouble.

Most costly were the attempts to spoil a Leicester scrumming close to their line, which led first to a yellow card for Ian Smith for not binding and then, when Scott Benton kicked the ball out of the ensuing scrum, the penalty try that gave Leicester a decisive grip on the game.

Leicester's desire to run the ball is certainly admirable and can only

gain momentum when Neil Back ends his six-month suspension and reintroduces his own brand of dynamism in early November. However, the run-at-all-costs approach that they adopted, particularly in the first half on Saturday, suggested a tactical naivety and lack of thought. It also meant that their advantage in possession was reflected only in an 18-14 lead at the break.

Eight minutes into the game, Leicester conjured a marvellous try, when Austin Healey tapped a kickable penalty on the Gloucester 22-metre line and the quick hands of Eric Miller and Will Greenwood gave Hackney just enough room to squeeze over in the right-hand corner.

But then, under pressure in their own 22 and with players out of position, they tapped again and got in a terrible tangle. In the end they were lucky to escape a situation which demanded a calming, touch-finding kick from John Liley.

Gloucester exploited these moments to keep in touch through Mark Mapletoft's boot and, just before the break, it was the stand-off half who jinked gloriously through the Leicester defence before sending a looping pass out to Anderson on the right. The wing bounced through two tackles on his way to scoring his first try for Gloucester.

In the second half, though, Leicester played with more control and the penalty try effectively snuffed out the Gloucester challenge. Ten minutes from time, however, Rory Underwood, recently discarded by England, capped the day and served a reminder that he is still as quick as ever when he sprinted 80 metres to score after an interception, leaving Chris Catling to follow him home.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Hackney, Cockell, Underwood, Penalty try. Conversion: J. Liley (2). Gloucester: Try: Anderson. Penalty goal: Mapletoft (2). LEICESTER: J. Liley, S. Hackney, W. Greenwood, S. Underwood, R. Liley, A. Healey, G. Rowntree, R. Cockell, D. Garscorn, W. Drake-Lee, M. Johnson, M. Poots, J. Wells, E. Miller. Miller replaced by O. Wingham (50m). GLOUCESTER: C. Catling, E. Anderson, C. Benton, T. Wingo, P. Greenwood, A. Deason, P. Glanville, D. Sims, R. Foster, I. Smith, E. Pearce. Referee: S. Piercy (Northampton).

Davies adds polish to Cardiff's display of true grit

Cardiff 33
Bridgend 25

BY GERALD DAVIES

THERE is a belief that the arrival soon of the dark clouds of rain and an icy nip in the afternoon air, will signal the end of a frosty start to the season. The mild, bright autumn and its frolicsome play will give way to winter and a frostier welcome. Many of the scores have suggested something not quite real and out of place, with much of the rugby resembling the texture of candyfloss: a colourful confection but one which is spread thinly and melts away. There is no hard core.

But the crowd at Cardiff need wait no longer. This was a hard, gritty affair. It was also meant to begin with. At the second lineout, a row broke out and, whilst as he might, the referee failed to part the warring factions.

A couple of minutes later, they were at it again. After the police first month, in which every team seemed to be on its Sunday best behaviour, keeping everyone happy with their mild entertainment, this was like old times. At any rate, there was no more bother and both teams settled down, but not with the soft touch. The match, thankfully, retained the tough edge which, combined with the attacking intent of both clubs, created a meeting of sharpened substance.

Cardiff and Bridgend will always have old scores to settle. There was a time when Bridgend preferred nothing better than to travel to Cardiff. Between 1967 and 1981 they never lost there.

In the first half, Cardiff looked to have cast aside any fears of the past. They were playing a confident game yet, though Jonathan Davies gave them an early lead with a penalty, they contrived to give



Davies tactical mastery

away points. Lyndon Griffiths kicked three penalties for the visitors.

Cardiff, potentially, can lift their game a couple of notches yet. They have the players to do so. At present, they are too often guilty of giving the ball away in promising circumstances. Bridgend, who did not give a sense of proper cohesion, were nonetheless tireless and tough scavengers. Griffiths and Morris were constantly probing. James and Thomas, in midfield, were robust and no respecters of anyone's reputation.

But the home team had in its stand-off half a player whose instincts are keener than most. Davies thrives on calling the tune. Here he steered Cardiff when their energetic opponents could so easily have unsettled them. He was aided by Emyr Lewis, who added extra impetus. It was his thrust that led to Justin Thomas's first try. A chip ahead by Davies, regathered by Leigh Davies, led to Thomas's second, and when Ford picked up Hall's grubber kick to register the third try, Cardiff were thoroughly in control.

Having created the platform for this dominance, Jonathan Davies, kicking and chasing for 50 metres, got in the act and scored the fourth. Inaccurate handling helped their opponents and it was to Bridgend's credit that they took advantage of it. Tries by Adrian Williams and Griffiths, who also kicked another penalty, brought them back within three points. Griffiths and Davies exchanged penalties before Hall managed to put the issue beyond doubt with a try in the 79th minute.

SCORES: Cardiff: Tries: Thomas (2), Davies, H. Davies, R. Howley, P. Bost. A. Lewis, J. Morris, J. R. J. Watford, D. Jones, M. Bennett, E. Lewis. Booth replaced by G. Young (55min). Bennett replaced by H. Taylor (59).

BRIDGEND: M. Beck, P. Jones, G. Thomas, D. James, G. Williams, J. Griffiths, W. Morris, D. Francis, I. Greenhalgh, R. Shaw, J. Foster, E. Williams, C. Stephens, C. Mitchell, J. B. Jones. Williams replaced by L. Davies (42min). Morris replaced by K. Mabley (72). Bost replaced by A. Williams (21).

Referee: H. Lewis (Pontypridd)

RUGBY UNION: RICHMOND RUE LAST-MINUTE LAPSE THAT ALLOWS THEIR RIVALS TO STAY AHEAD



The pack looks on as Andy Moore, the Richmond scrum half, feeds his threequarters during the 20-20 draw with Newcastle on Saturday. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Andrew keeps Newcastle in profit

Richmond 20
Newcastle 20

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THEY have been urging Richmond on with cries of "Come on, Rich" for many years; now there is an ambiguity to the call, given the thousands of pounds spent in assembling a team designed not only to win the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship but to grace the first division too.

Money well spent? That we will not know for another seven months, by which time we may get a different result and a different style of match from that of Saturday, which saw two sides still striving for cohesion, cancelling out each other's strengths but neither able to impose itself.

The directors of rugby at Richmond and Newcastle — John Kingston and Rob Andrew, who played together for Cambridge University in 1982 — believe that their clubs would prosper in the first division. So they should, given the talent they have at their disposal. But if there is one substantial difference between this game and those played in

the elite this season, it is all-round pace.

Only Tony Underwood and, perhaps, Tim Stimpson demonstrated the speed with which the first division has become familiar and it was fitting that Underwood should have scored his club's first try and made the second. He and his older brother, Rory, spend little time comparing notes on their rugby careers but one wonders whether it will be Tony who supplants England's most-capped player on the left wing, now that he is playing there for Newcastle.

After a year in the international wilderness, during which he has come through injury, a change of club and settled into married life, Tony is back into his stride. "He's training hard, he's feeling comfortable in his rugby, he's enjoying the lifestyle. His attitude is outstanding," Steve Bates, the Newcastle coach, said. Moreover, he is the Underwood in the England squad while Rory, at 33, is not.

Jack Rowell and Mike Slemen, England's coach and assistant respectively, were at Richmond to make their own assessments, along with a crowd of unofficially estimated at 6,000, who created an atmosphere unrecognisable

from the sedate, slightly sad seasons of yesteryear. That the raucous pop music is not to all tastes is neither here nor there, given that Richmond are committed to attracting new fans, and, if their players can keep them on tiptoe, as they did on Saturday, they will come again.

Yet, in many respects, it was an old-fashioned match in which the forwards dictated and the backs could not break the cloying embrace of com-



Andrew attempts to charge down Mason's clearance

mitted defenders. Richmond were fortunate to receive the penalty try which brought them back into the match just before the interval; Newcastle were let off the hook when Allan Bateman, fresh from Australia, failed to find touch and the riposte was so acute that Underwood veered into space and sent Armstrong to the line. Andrew's none-too-difficult conversion securing the draw in the final minute.

These penalty tries are be-

coming something of an embarrassment. Save for a dismissal, they are rugby's ultimate punishment, yet they are becoming too common-place. Referees will argue that if they act in concerted fashion now, the players will learn their lesson and the award will recover the rarity status it used to have.

But it also creates a rod for the back of individual officials. Once a referee has started down this road, particularly in high-profile games, he may feel almost obliged to keep going. Steve Lander, who awarded the penalty try which won Bath the Pilkington Cup last May, has handed out three in league games this season — as has Tony Spreadbury, his international-panel colleague. In a month of first and second-division rugby, there have been 14 penalty tries, most of them given by England's best officials.

Clearly, the message is going out to players not to infringe or obstruct persistently, yet the law almost obliges them to do so once they are anywhere near their own line. It encourages sides to play for the penalty try — as Leicester almost certainly did in the dying seconds of their league game with Bath earlier this

month — and, here, Newcastle had twice been penalised nearer their own line than the spot from which Lander eventually gave the penalty try that took Richmond to within three points of their opponents.

Yet it contributed to a richly-exciting game. Armstrong's kick into space allowed Underwood to show not only his pace but his handling skills, whereas Scott Quinnell's try from a five-metre scrum was the product of power and drive, qualities shown in even greater measure by the younger Quinnell, Craig, who is developing into a formidable presence. When Davies dropped a high, handsome goal, Richmond looked to have the game in hand, but Newcastle will concede little to anyone this season and will cherish the away point against their rivals.

SCORES: Richmond: Tries: S. Quinnell (1), Underwood (2). Conversion: Quinnell (2). Penalty goals: Quinnell (2), Underwood (2). Newcastle: Tries: Underwood (2), Quinnell (2). Conversion: Quinnell (2). Penalty goals: Quinnell (2), Underwood (2). **RICHMOND:** S. Quinnell, J. Fother, A. Bateman, S. Cottrell, M. Hutton, A. Davies, A. Moore, D. McFarlane, B. Moore, D. Cramp, A. Vardell, C. Quinnell, R. West, B. Clark, S. Quinnell. West temporarily replaced by A. Coddling (16-22min). **NEWCASTLE:** T. Stimpson, J. Bentley, A. Bates, G. Chalk, T. Underwood, R. Andrew, G. Armstrong, M. Poplestone, R. Newcastle, G. Graham, S. Quinnell, G. Archer, G. West, R. Arnold, D. Ryan. Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

Clubs in battle for Botica's services

Orrell 27
Wasps 44

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE main thrust of pre-match conversation at Edge Hall Road on Saturday concerned the whereabouts of Frano Botica, the former All Black. Botica, once an integral part of Wigan's all-conquering rugby league side, had the distinction of being selected by two clubs on the same day, but played for neither.

Orrell, not a club easily intimidated, were adamant that he was their player and had been quietly seeking legal advice while others elsewhere were trumpeting his arrival. The Rugby Football Union's refusal to release the player's registration forced Llanelli to rapidly withdraw him from their line-up for the Welsh league match at Pontypridd.

Orrell issued a statement an hour before kick-off that Botica had been selected, but had failed to arrive at the ground and therefore was in breach of contract. Orrell, together with their solicitors, will meet with officials from Llanelli this week to discuss suitable terms to allow the player's transfer to go through. The new age of rugby has certainly arrived.

Any danger that such matters off the field would affect those on it were quickly dispelled in what proved to be a thrilling encounter between the top and bottom clubs in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship. The script was only followed insofar as Wasps won.

Although rooted at the foot of the table, Orrell's young and inexperienced side are beginning to develop a cohe-

siveness and backbone that will surely serve them well as they approach their targeted fixtures. As for Wasps, if they have pretensions to the champions' crown next May, then they must address the problems evident on Saturday.

They missed too many first tackles and the poor quality of ball to the energetic and enterprising Gomersall put the scrum half under unnecessary pressure. Lapses in concentration allowed the opposition to dictate the pace and direction of the game.

With the Tuigamala brothers — Va'uiga, of Wasps, and Lua, of Orrell — in opposition for the first time, Orrell had ten points on the board within 16 minutes through a try from Lyon, and a conversion and penalty from Strett. Wasps replied with two tries from Scrase, plus a conversion and penalty from the steady Rees, to lead 15-10 at half-time.

In the second half, with King's deft hands and subtle skills giving Tuigamala the space to severely test the Orrell defence, Wasps extended their advantage to 37-10. Orrell, playing with more self-belief than they have shown so far this season, narrowed the gap to ten points before Wasps scored again in the closing minutes.

SCORES: Orrell: Tries: Lyon, Heslop, Bennett, Nayler. Conversions: Strett (2). Penalty goals: Strett, Wasps: Tries: Scrase (2), Rees (2), Tuigamala, Scrase. Conversions: Rees (4). Penalty goals: Rees (2).

ORRELL: R. Hitchmough, J. Mayler, I. Tuigamala, D. Lyon, N. Heslop, M. Strett, S. Cook, M. Worsley, M. Scott, P. Turner, J. Huxley, P. Rees, P. O'Hare, P. Angellou, A. Bennett. Huxley replaced by A. McEneaney (63min).

WASPS: G. Rees, I. Scrase, N. Gomersall, V. Tuigamala, S. Rees, A. King, A. Gomersall, D. Mayler, S. Mitchell, M. Griffiths, M. White, D. Gorn, M. Greenwood, I. Dallaglio, C. Scrase, S. Scrase replaced by N. Huxley (78). Referee: A. Spreadbury (Somerset)

Late try by Halvey seals Munster win

Leinster 40
Munster 45

BY A CORRESPONDENT

RUMOURS that the Guinness inter-provincial championship is dead, with so many top Irish players competing in England, have proved to be greatly exaggerated. At Donnybrook on Saturday, Leinster and Munster provided a pulsating match. The lead changed six times, there were eight tries and the scoreline set a record for the competition.

Richard Gomeroy, the Leinster stand-off half, kicked a long-range penalty goal in the 90th minute to put the home side 40-38 ahead. But four minutes into injury time, Munster stormed back. The pack drove forward and Eddie Halvey crashed over on the blind side, for the second-choice goalkicker, Mick Lynch, to land a superb conversion from the left-hand touchline.

Munster began at break-neck pace and were 13 points up inside the first ten minutes. But, with Martin Ridge and Kurt McQuilkin punching gaps in midfield, Leinster led 25-22 at half-time.

By then, David Coleman, Ridge and McQuilkin had scored tries, two of them converted by Gomeroy, who added two penalty goals for good measure. Munster replied with three more penalty goals from Begley, but when he retired through injury, they looked to be in considerable trouble.

Their problems increased when Neil Francis went over for another Leinster try ten minutes into the second period. But, from a tipped pen-

ty, Galvey then scored the second of his two tries.

Two penalty goals from Lynch, with a dropped goal by Keane in between, put Munster 38-30 ahead before Gomeroy converted a try by Denis Hickie, leaving Leinster trailing by one point with 20 minutes to go.

That set up a dramatic finish, with Leinster losing their championship title in a memorable match. Now Munster have everything to play for when they take on Ulster in Limerick next Saturday.

At Ravenhill, in Saturday's other championship match, Connacht came close to beating Ulster for the first time since 1983, only to lose 32-27. Topping, Durcan and Laing scored Ulster's tries, Laing adding one conversion and five penalty goals. Carey and Elwood scored tries for Connacht. Elwood converted his own try, as well as landing a dropped goal and four penalties.

SCORES: Leinster: Tries: Coleman, Ridge, McQuilkin, Francis, Hickie. Conversions: Gomeroy (2). Penalty goals: Gomeroy (2). Munster: Tries: Galvey (2), Hickie, Conboy, Lynch (2), Begley. Conversions: Lynch (2). Dropped goal: Begley (5). Lynch (2). **LEINSTER:** P. McKenna (Old Belvedere), D. Coleman (Ravenhill College), M. Ridge (Old Belvedere), K. McQuilkin (Lansdowne), D. Hickie (St Mary's College), R. Gomeroy (Lansdowne), A. Holland (Blackrock College), H. Heslop (Blackrock), M. McEneaney (Lansdowne), A. McKee (Lansdowne), G. Rees (Old Wesley), P. Turner (St. James's), J. Huxley (St. James's), P. Angellou (St. James's), M. Scott (St. James's), S. Cook (St. James's), M. Worsley (St. James's), I. Tuigamala (St. James's), D. Lyon (St. James's), N. Heslop (St. James's).

MUNSTER: D. Coleman (Glanworth), S. McQuilkin (St. James's), M. Ridge (St. James's), K. McQuilkin (St. James's), D. Hickie (St. James's), R. Gomeroy (St. James's), A. Holland (Blackrock College), H. Heslop (Blackrock), M. McEneaney (Lansdowne), A. McKee (Lansdowne), G. Rees (Old Wesley), P. Turner (St. James's), J. Huxley (St. James's), P. Angellou (St. James's), M. Scott (St. James's), S. Cook (St. James's), M. Worsley (St. James's), I. Tuigamala (St. James's), D. Lyon (St. James's), N. Heslop (St. James's).

CONNACHT: Tries: Topping, Durcan, Laing. Conversions: Laing (2). Penalties: Carey, Elwood. **ULSTER:** Tries: Topping, Durcan, Laing. Conversions: Laing (2). Penalties: Carey, Elwood.

Referee: G. Hughes (Manchester)

Burke denies Sale fruits of revival

Sale 31
Bristol 33

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

A STRANGER wandering into Heywood Road on Saturday might have loved it, an afternoon of Vaudeville which produced nearly the greatest comeback of this manic season. A more critical analysis was still being put to the Sale team an hour after a game hopes to play at Northampton next Saturday.

Alan Davies, the Bristol coach, was disturbed by his side's failure to protect a commanding lead. "I admit if I'd been on the field I would have found it difficult to know what to do after scoring 24 points so quickly," he said, "but with Sale coming back, I wondered if the boys were trying to make a game of it."

Bristol's second-half scoring consisted of two penalties by Burke as their forwards hung on grimly. Stocks nibbled away at the lead with three penalties and his conversion of a penalty try, awarded for a deliberate knockdown of a potential scoring pass by Vyvyan, put Sale ahead 31-30.

In the ten minutes after Burke's conclusive penalty, the home side had their chances, but Stocks was not as sure-footed from longer range.

SCORES: Sale: Tries: Ryan, Morris, Mullender, penalty try. Conversions: Stocks. Penalty goals: Stocks (2). Bristol: Tries: Tustin (2), Burke, Regan. Conversions: Burke (2). Penalty goals: Burke (3).

SALE: J. Mullender, D. Rees, J. Baxendale, G. Stocks, C. Yates, M. Ryan, M. War, P. Wrotasley, S. Diamond, A. Smith, D. O'Grady, J. Fowler, D. Baldwin, A. Morris, C. Vyvyan. Yates replaced by S. Verbraken (70min). **BRISTOL:** P. Hall, D. Tuer, K. Moggs, M. Denney, B. Breeze, P. Burke, R. Jones, A. Sharp, M. Regan, K. Palmer, I. Duggan, S. Shaw, P. Adams, D. Corbally, E. Burt, Corbally replaced by C. Barrow (36), Jones replaced by T. Duggan (40). Referee: J. Pausanias (Durham)

Complacent Hawick trailing in fast-moving world

Melrose 35
Hawick 13

BY MARK SOUSTER

UNLIKELY as it might seem, winning the inaugural Tennents Cup in April could be one of the worst things to have happened to Hawick. Granted, the victory brought a town, its people and the club together in a demonstration of collective spirit from which all drew inspiration: the heart-warming story of how a home-spun, home-town side upset the odds and the established order at Murrayfield. Suddenly, the club felt it had, if not the world, then at least the very best in Scotland at its feet.

Times, though, have changed, and how. Reality has smacked them in the face. Standing still is a dangerous business in the fast-moving world of rugby union and Hawick have been guilty of complacency.

Their cup success merely papered over cracks in the edifice. No new players were brought in during the summer, mainly due to a lack of money, and tactics, based on honest endeavour and the will to win, have remained static and outdated.

That much was glaringly obvious in a match in which Brian Renwick, the Hawick captain, admitted that his team were "never at the races". The contrast with Melrose could not be greater, a club spending big money in pursuit of big dreams.

Hawick were limited in the extreme, staid defence the best they could muster as their title aspirations were exposed for what they really are — non-existent. "There's a danger that Melrose and Watsonians will create a super league of their own. No one can match them," Renwick said.

"We still train only two evenings a week while many of the Melrose players are full-

Full results and league tables ... Page 37

time professionals. They have so much pace and so many options."

After three straightforward wins against the cannon fodder of the first division at the start of the season, the Hawick deficiencies have now been exploited by Watsonians and Melrose in successive weeks. The club can trot out excuses about losing Tony Stanger and Jim Hay to injury, and the absence of three other first-team regulars, but it mattered not a jot.

That the champions failed to put the game out of reach until midway through the second half was due to sloppy handling, poor passing and a tendency to over-elaborate. Basic skills were alarmingly absent. Playing their brand of all-action 15-man rugby could be risky against better-class opponents, but, on this occasion, Melrose could afford to make their own mistakes.

Gary Parker, one of the unsung supporting cast at the Greenyards, contributed 20 points, with a try and three conversions of tries scored by Aitken, Bain, and Stark in a heady ten-minute spell midway through the second. Colin Turnbull's consolation try at the death was Hawick's first in almost four hours of rugby. That said it all.

SCORES: Melrose: Tries: Parker, Aitken, Bain, Stark. Conversions: Parker (3). Penalty goals: Parker (3). Hawick: Tries: Turnbull. Conversions: Welsh. Penalty goals: Welsh (2). **MELROSE:** R. Shepherd, D. Stark, S. Nichol, D. Bain, G. Parker, C. Chalmers, B. Redpath, M. Ross, S. Brotherton, M. Brown, A. Redpath, R. Brown, S. Aitken, N. Broughton, C. Hay. **HAWICK:** C. Turnbull, D. Hughes, A. Stanger, C. Murray, G. Sharp, S. Welsh, K. Reid, R. Scott, J. Hay, A. Johnston, G. Hume, I. Elliot, A. Knox, J. Graham, S. Renwick, Stanger replaced by W. Colman (77min). Hay replaced by G. Blacklock (42). Murray replaced by B. Cunningham (73). Referee: J. Fleming (Boroughmuir)

Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, yesterday indicated that he would accept a part-time contract with the Scottish Rugby Union, which could signal the beginning of the end of any hope of a club breakaway in Scotland. Other players are expected to follow suit, but none will actually sign in order to keep their options open.

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Track record merits special reward

John Goodbody finds
a deserving candidate
for funding as a centre
of sporting excellence

THE Government will today launch a scheme for specialist sports colleges aimed at improving facilities and raising standards in state schools. The partnership programme between sponsors and the Government, who between them will commit at least £200,000 in funding at each college, is designed to promote excellence at all levels. Few schools in Britain are surely more deserving of achieving the distinction than Barking Abbey comprehensive in East London. The borough of Barking and Dagenham is designated as an area of sporting and social deprivation. Yet, here is an institute, with a



SPORT IN SCHOOLS

mixed roll of 1,600, that desperately needs the financial backing to raise still further its distinguished pedigree in sport.

Barking Abbey were national schools under-16 football champions in 1994 and finalists in the TSB English Schools' Cups in both athletics and cross country in each of the past five years. Six of the school's present crop of pupils have obtained county honours at cricket. In individual sports, one boy, Glen Coppin, is the national cross-country champion and top of the under-13 rankings for both 800 and 1,500 metres, while Nikki Laddow is a national age-group 200 metres butterfly champion.

However, the school's record in sport does not seem to have affected its recent academic results, with the pass rates at A star to C grades in GCSE having more than doubled over the past five years. The school's performance is now higher than the national average.

Tony Maxwell, the headteacher, said: "There is a danger in the eyes of the community, in seeking to



Jane Farrow, coach to the successful athletics squad at Barking Abbey comprehensive, puts students through their paces

become a specialist sports school, of being seen as promoting sport, sport, sport. However, pupils come here to learn and we do send 40 of them to university every year."

However, as a former English 1,500 metres international and Cambridge athletics Blue, he is convinced of the values of physical education and sport. "They have so much to offer, teaching self-confidence and being a member of a team and getting on well with the members of that team."

It is astonishing how well the school has done despite the absence of many modern facilities. Although there are a few grass pitches on site, an all-weather public athletics track five minutes'

walk away and a swimming pool reasonably close, the three gymnasiums are too small even to stage a proper basketball game. They were built in 1932 and one has holes in the roof.

Initially, Barking Abbey needs

Schools results 37

the money it would receive as a designated specialist sports college to use the available facilities more extensively than at present. This will include the provision of equipment and hiring the neighbouring athletics track for much longer periods. In the long term there are

plans for a £1.6 million indoor sports hall, for which lottery money will be required.

The scheme, which is being promoted by the Youth Sport Trust, is restricted to maintained secondary schools that are committed to the development of sport. The trust, which is looking for at least ten applicants by December 15 and a further 30 to 40 by January 1998, will help schools to raise the sponsorship. It will also identify and develop particularly talented youngsters.

The school has to find £100,000 of sponsorship, which the Government will then match with an equal sum, plus a further £100 per pupil per year. In Barking Abbey's case,

this would bring in a further £160,000.

The local borough council is supportive. Fiona Bevan, one of its officers, who has special responsibility for PE, said: "We want to promote excellence and greater participation. If we can bid for resources that can enhance provision and that are not detrimental to any pupils, we are all for it."

Barking Abbey will now be seeking the necessary sponsorship. Maxwell said: "I am confident we will raise the money." If there were ever an example of how a locally-based company, such as Ford or Rhone Poulenc, could enhance its status in the community, then Barking Abbey provides it.

American colleges box clever in bid to make fast buck

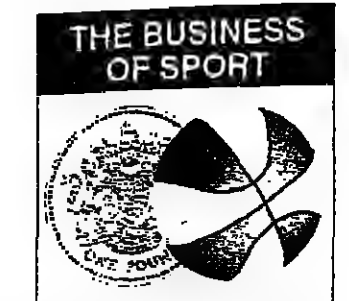
When Shaquille O'Neal, the basketball player, moved recently from Orlando Magic to Los Angeles Lakers in a \$120 million (about £77 million) deal, the size of the package prompted a few raised eyebrows in the American press, but hardly the outcry that has followed some of the football transfers in this country.

The United States has long been more at ease with a close relationship between sport and money than in the United Kingdom. The rules of its leading professional sports have been modified to suit the needs of television and sponsors; teams are run as business franchises and, if the owners decide that there is better money to be made elsewhere, few have qualms about relocating the team. Even those players who are not of the stature of O'Neal earn wages that make Alan Shearer's pay seem like pocket money.

So it comes as some surprise to find that the country is at present taxed by as seemingly trivial a development as the addition of skyboxes — corporate hospitality suites — to college American football grounds. The move by more than 40 of the leading colleges to try to raise extra funds by adding skyboxes has prompted concerned correspondents in letters pages across the country, while *The Washington Post* used an editorial to decry the "demise of democratic grandeur" that it believes the segregation of college sports grounds represents.

The outcry is a result of the complex role that college sports performs in the United States. On the one hand, university sports nominally still clings to the amateur ideal, offering the opportunity for talented individuals to develop their sporting skills in tandem with academic learning. The local college sports ground provides a focus for town and gown, with everyone sharing the discomfort of the wooden seats.

College sport, though, has also developed into an integral part of the professional sports system. Basketball and American football rely on colleges to breed and blood players. This has inevitably led to an unseemly scramble as shadowy agents target young sportsmen with gifts and bribes in the hope of



taking a cut of lucrative future professional contracts. Marcus Camby, of the University of Massachusetts, who was voted college basketball player of the year, recently admitted taking cash and gifts worth several thousand dollars from potential agents.

Television has also developed the potential of college sports. Large areas of the United States have no professional teams, so college sides provide a substitute, also, most colleges, which are large by British standards, can deliver an instant captive audience of hundreds of thousands of alumni.

Not surprisingly, the colleges have cottoned on to the fundraising potential of their sports teams. The skyboxes are merely the latest manifestation of this trend, albeit a highly lucrative one, with each box capable of bringing in \$80,000 a season. The University of Nebraska is effectively charging \$625 a game for an individual in a box, compared with the normal admission charge of \$28. Businesses, meanwhile, like the superior comfort and service, and the fact that the cost is tax deductible.

The arrival of the skyboxes has resulted in battle lines being drawn between the last defenders of the amateur tradition, who question whether colleges should be supporting professional sport, and those colleges that have embraced the changes. Two famous sporting colleges, the Universities of Notre Dame and of Michigan, have explicitly rejected skyboxes, but, for most colleges, including Texas A & M, which used skybox money to pay for a new \$3.6 million tennis centre, the lure of extra funds is likely to prove decisive.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

CRICKET: PAKISTAN FALL WELL SHORT OF DEMANDING VICTORY TARGET

Record stand sets up South Africa win



Rhodes: fleet-footed in his pursuit of century

DARYLL CULLINAN and Jonty Rhodes shared a partnership of 232, a fourth-wicket record for one-day internationals, as South Africa beat Pakistan by 62 runs in the TSB English Schools' Cups in both athletics and cross country in each of the past five years. Six of the school's present crop of pupils have obtained county honours at cricket. In individual sports, one boy, Glen Coppin, is the national cross-country champion and top of the under-13 rankings for both 800 and 1,500 metres, while Nikki Laddow is a national age-group 200 metres butterfly champion.

However, the school's record in sport does not seem to have affected its recent academic results, with the pass rates at A star to C grades in GCSE having more than doubled over the past five years. The school's performance is now higher than the national average.

Tony Maxwell, the headteacher, said: "There is a danger in the eyes of the community, in seeking to

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Ijaz, taking three for 29 in eight overs.

Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis quickly had South Africa in trouble after they had been put in to bat but proved powerless to curb Cullinan and Rhodes, whose partnership was marked by electrifying running between the wickets.

Rhodes was dropped when 65, by Ijaz at backward square-leg, but otherwise he and Cullinan were in complete control as both fielding and bowling became increasingly ragged.

Cullinan eventually held out to Salim Malik, having hit 12 fours from 117 balls, while

Rhodes had hit 11 fours from 114 balls received when he was run out in the 47th over.

Rhodes then kept Pakistan on the back foot by running out Saeed Anwar with a direct hit from backward point in the first over. Anwar's opening partner, Saleem Elahi, hit 54 and shared a third-wicket stand of 67 with Ijaz, but once they were parted, Pakistan's hopes faded.

Mark Taylor, who is recovering from back surgery, and his Australian team set out yesterday on a six-week tour of India which includes one Test match and a one-day series.

Scoreboard, page 37

SPORTS LETTERS

Problems of two-tier system

From Mr Clive Mackie

Sir, Alan Lee (Championship Commentary, September 23) propounds an eminently satisfactory system for dividing the county cricket championship into two divisions.

One important facet of a two-tier system, however, appears to have been overlooked. With the lack of control on players transferring from one county to another, players in the lower division would soon be constantly striving, not to get their county promoted to the upper echelon, but to obtain employment for themselves with a county well-established in the top division.

As a result, a number of counties will be permanently located in the lower division and attempts to engage or develop star performers will be constantly thwarted.

This undesirable feature could largely be ameliorated by the new English Cricket Board insisting that players who change counties should be disbanded (unless they are in the twilight of their careers) from playing for their new county in the championship during the season immediately following their engagement.

The county to which a player was transferring would have to pay the player for that interim season in order to avoid falling foul of the legislation regarding an individual's right to work, so only those players whose skills are seen as worth a year's wait will be receiving offers.

If the lawyers find a way of giving a legal right to a transferred player to insist on playing championship matches straightaway, the ECB could counter with a proviso that a side would receive, say, three fewer points for a win in respect of each such transferred player included in the winning team.

By adopting the fallow year, sides such as Durham could

actually aspire in time to first-division status; otherwise those sides would be perpetually consigned to the cricketing ragbag which, even if it could be argued to be in the interests of the Test team, would impoverish the less popular counties and not be to the overall good of the game.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE MACKIE,
Withersham, East Sussex.

From Mr Alan Cain

Sir, If the two-tier system for the county cricket championship is adopted, one would hope that, with half as many fixtures, provision could be made for time lost through bad weather to be made up. This would end the lottery which has existed in the competition for decades.

In the season just ended Surrey seemed to be particularly badly hit by games against Nottinghamshire, at Trent Bridge, and Worcestershire, at the Oval, where whole days were lost while other counties involved in the title chase were not so affected.

Where competitions such as the Britannia Assurance are sponsored, the financial difference of some £40,000 between first and third places should not be decided by the influence of the weather.

Is there not also a risk, if the two-tier system is adopted, that the gap left by half as many four-day fixtures might result in more one-day competitions, which counties may want to supplement income from a reduced fixture-list and possibly reduced sponsorship and membership? Why not achieve the aim of less cricket by dispensing with the second innings?

Yours etc.,
ALAN CAIN,
42 The Hawthorns,
120 Mulgrave Road,
Sutton, Surrey.

Foreign influence for good

From Mr Paul Hodson

Sir, I cannot agree with your columnist Steve McNamara (September 23). As a football supporter, I am concerned about our national game and not just the fortunes of the constituent clubs or even the players that belong to them.

Players such as Klinsmann, Ravanelli, Lehoucq, Berger, Juninho and Emerson have not only improved the quality of our national sides, but more is being learned from them than can be learned from the established coaches in the game, who are, at best, reluctant to change a style that has proved a complete failure.

British players should take far more of the blame than McNamara wants to attribute to them. I support Tottenham and can point to one instance where money was the only factor in a transfer. This

player claimed he wanted the main striker's role, and was promised it, but left anyway. He is now not playing in that role for club or country.

For years the top clubs have treated the rest as a cheap pool of talent, paying out a few hundred thousand for players who, in a short time, are "worth" millions. What the Bosman case has done is make us all (supporters, players, coaches, and directors) re-examine how these clubs are treated. Recent suggestions of better evaluating what has been spent on training and coaching young stars and of bigger clubs adopting smaller ones are proof of this.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL HODSON,
64 Bright Street,
Whitmore Reans,
Wolverhampton,
West Midlands.

Keeping to budget

From the Chairman of Totnes Rugby Football Club

Sir, At my Devon first division rugby union club we have tried to operate our little business in a professional manner. To raise the £11,000 needed to run our teams each season, we have drawn up budgets for our income and outgoings and work within those confines.

Our main income is from our bar. Whilst sponsorship and gate revenue play a minor part in our calculations, each season it is readily noticeable that we cannot pay our players on our income.

I realise that the scale of operations of clubs such as Newcastle and Harlequins brings them in much greater revenues than ours and they are therefore happily able to share some of this good fortune with their players. I imagine, though, that they too go through the same process as we do when it comes to looking ahead and wonder why they did not cut the cloth to suit when arriving at their possible wages bill. It is not a good advertisement for their management if they sign contracts with players on the expectation of being able to increase their share of an un-negotiated sum.

Most businesses endeavour to keep wage bills to a minimum and most of the young men in my club would be delighted at the thought of having five times their average annual wage paid to them for playing each season.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. TOWNSEND
(Chairman, Totnes RFC),
2 Christina Park,
Bridgetown, Totnes, Devon.

From Mr Bryan Hyde

Sir, The whip rule in horse racing has led to improved riding standards. Interference has dropped due to jockeys riding with their hands, heads and heels rather than just their whips.

The only real solution is for whips to be banned, in the first year on two-year-olds, then on two-year-olds and three-year-olds, then in all races.

The current regulations are causing problems, but increased use of the whip cannot

be the answer. Horses (and jockeys) are disqualified for slight misjudgments at 40mph causing interference, yet when riders disobey the whip rules, the owner, trainer and jockey keep their percentages of the prize-money.

One solution would be that, when a rider breaks the whip rule, the prize-money is withheld. Jockeys alone must not be punished with suspensions for a number of days; trainers, too, ought to receive similar treatment.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN HYDE,
5 Redgate Close,
Wickford,
Essex.

Not exclusive

From Mr Simon Reed

Sir, Eurosport can take criticism on the chin with the best of them, but Rob Hughes made an error in reviewing the coverage of the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril (TV Action Replay, September 23) which shed a poor light on the commentary team.

Tony Jardine did indeed say that the BBC had exclusive news from the Renault-Williams team that Damon Hill had a clutch problem. He may have thought it was exclusive,

but Eurosport also had that information from its own contacts in the pits and broadcast it immediately.

I appreciate that, with Rob switching channels so often, it is very likely that something could be missed, but if that something provides him with the main thrust of his review, then we have to shout unfair.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON REED, Head of English Commentary, Eurosport,
55 Drury Lane, WC2.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

Swiss 1993 Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I am appointed Liquidator of the above company on 4 September 1996.

This notice is given in accordance with all conditions have been or will be paid to the creditors.

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INQUIRY ACT 1996
MEETING OF CREDITORS OF
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the offices of the Liquidator, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL, on 12 October 1996 at 11.30 am for the purpose of considering the affairs of the company and the proposed liquidation of the company.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

Christian Dymond on a sport associated with North of the Border which is set to gain Olympic status

Ice-cold skills in the roaring game

Stand on a Tube station and listen to a train coming from a quarter of a mile away. What you can hear is both London Underground at work and a sound akin to curling: 42lbs of granite in the shape of a round Dutch cheese gliding down a sheet of ice. Not for nothing is the sport known as the roaring game.

Long associated with Scotland, curling has nonetheless travelled the world. It is particularly big in Canada, is played in Japan and has come south to England and Wales.

In Scotland there are 648



clubs affiliated to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, whose object is "to unite curlers throughout the world into one brotherhood of the rink". In 1998 at the Winter Olympics in Japan, curling will become an official Olympic sport.

The new season has just started, so I went to the South of Scotland Ice Rink at Lockerbie, where 65 hours each week until April will be set aside for curling. People have brought their brushes, or brooms to strike the stone, but are not allowed to bring their own stones.

"It's because stones have to be as cold as the ice, which is minus two degrees centigrade. If warmer, they'll make a saucer shape in the ice and won't run properly," says veteran curler Sandy Smith. Anyway, stones are very expensive.

Three years ago the ice rink spent £28,000 on 80 stones for the club. Help came from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. The ones they replaced had been in use since 1967. They had been turned over to give them a longer life. The best granite for curling stones, I am told, comes from Ailsa Craig, in the Firth of Clyde.

Curling generally involves two teams of four players, taking it in turns to slide the stone almost 40 metres down a sheet of ice towards the house. The sheet is a lane, a minimum of 4.75 metres wide and the house is a series of concentric circles near the end of the rink.

Each member of the team has two stones to curl. A team scores one point for each stone finishing nearer the centre of the house, the button, than any belonging to their opponents. Once all 16 stones have been dispatched from one end, you swap ends. A game usually consists of ten "ends".

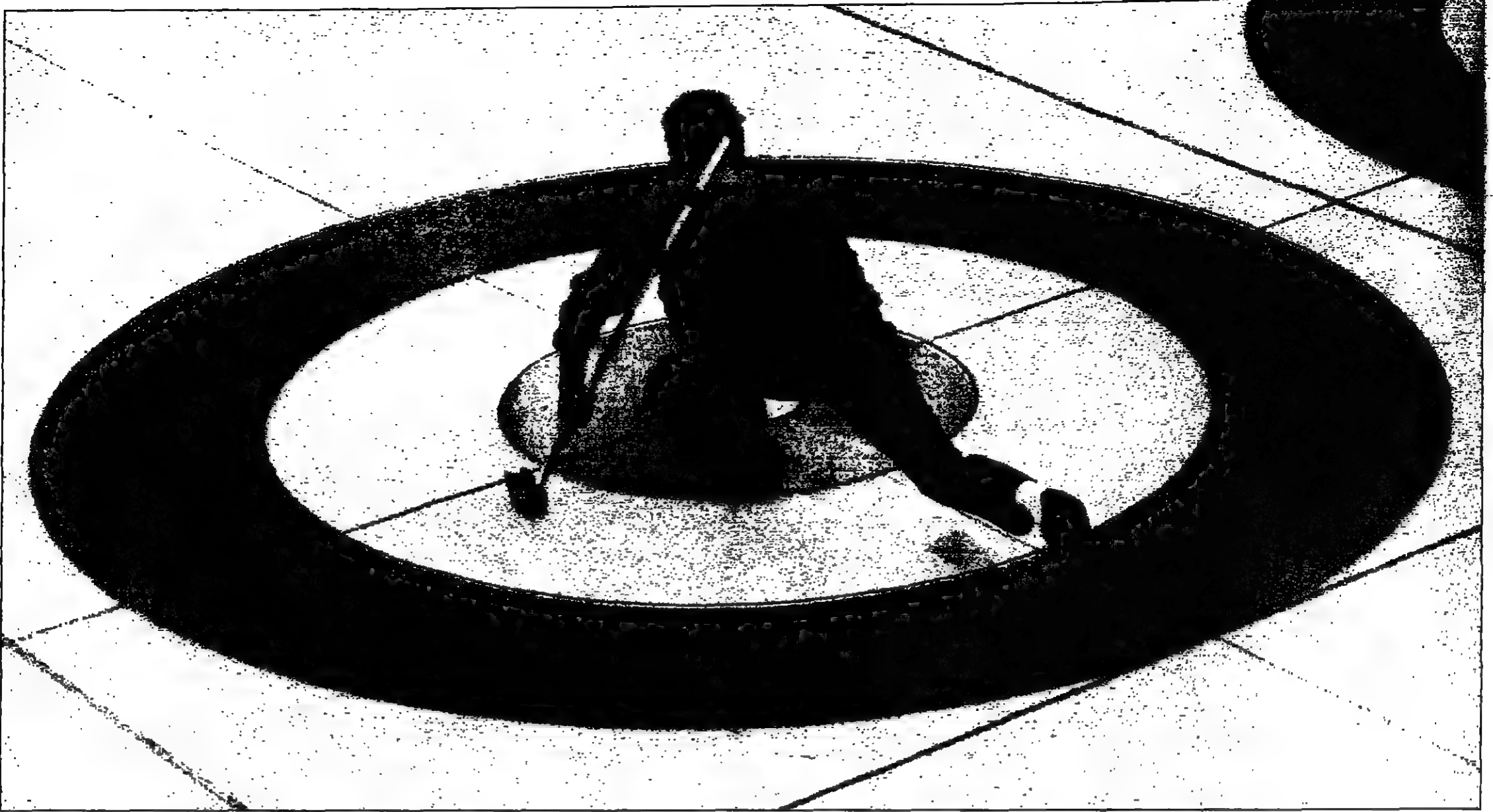
Of course, opponents can knock your stone out of the way during a game, or slide one short to act as a guard. Then there is the added factor that the stone itself moves down the ice with a slight bias.

I ask why it cannot go straight. "Because it would be a pretty boring game if it did," says Liz Smith, a director of the 1,000-member ice rink club and a player for nearly 30 years. The appeal for her is the companionship and the competitive nature of the sport.

Despite the competitiveness, it is considered extremely bad manners if you don't shake the opposition's hands at the end of a game.

Every team has a skip. They are the ones who call the shots and at the start of each "end" will stand near the house and tell their team what to aim for. This is done both verbally and with signs made with the brush.

The first member of the team to deliver a stone is the lead, followed by the lead from the other team. Skips from



The first day of the curling season gets under way at Lockerbie ice rink, with a player set to slide the stone. The game is rapidly gaining adherents all over the world and becomes an official Olympic sport in 1998

WHAT TO WEAR - WHAT IT COSTS

● **YOU** can wear your own clothes curling but close fitting trousers are not so favoured because of the actions involved in delivering the stone and polishing the ice. Curling trousers — something akin to tracksuit bottoms — cost about £30. Curlers often wear their own club jumpers.

● **CURLING** gloves — a bit like golfing gloves — can be worn (Prices £16 to £20) so you can grip the stone more comfortably and avoid blisters on the hand from polishing. They also keep your hands warm. Brushes cost from £30 to £50.

● **SOME** people wear a knee protector (about £4) on the knee that is touching the ice when they deliver the stone. Curling shoes go from £60 to £150. If you wear ordinary trainers and just want a slip-over sole for the one shoe (the left shoe if you are right handed and have the right foot in the hack), the price is £16 to £20. Clubs have curling stones at their rinks because of the need to keep them at the right temperature.



A player assesses the state of play during a match. Each of the granite stones moves down the ice with a slight bias

FACT BOX

THE Royal Caledonian Curling Club is at Cairnie House, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 2NB. Tel: 0131-333 3003. The secretary is Duthie Thomson.

The South of Scotland Ice Rink is at Lockerbie. Tel: 01576-202197.

The Multi Sponsorship Invitation Tournament is at the South of Scotland Ice Rink, from October 11 to 13. The Macallan European Playdowns are at the Summit Centre, Glasgow, October 17 to 20. Tel: 0141-204 2215.



With play under way, team members polish the ice to make the stone go further

each side are often the last to go. Some players will no doubt have little quirks of delivery, but there seems a fairly uniform action.

If you are right-handed, take the stone by the handle in that hand, give a little polish to the bottom side to remove any dirt or hairs from brushes or even wool from jumpers, put your right foot in what looks like a starting block and with your left leg in a bending position, launch yourself forward.

The sole of the right shoe in this case has a grip, that of the left shoe is slightly slippery. Curling shoes can be expensive but you can use trainers with special soles.

Before you reach a line called the hog line you must have released the curling stone. Then, if the skip commands, the polishing starts. This is feverish activity conducted with the brush just ahead of the stone by one or two of your colleagues.

The idea is to facilitate the stone's progress. It does not speed the stone up but it does make it travel further. When the skip says so the polishing stops. There is a useful adjunct to this activity. It means that the two players not directly engaged in either playing the stone or giving the

orders can still play a vital role.

At the end of the first game of the evening a man with a small water tank on his back and a sprayer in his hand comes on to the ice. Walking backwards, he sprays down the centre line of each of the five sheets.

"The drops of water will freeze immediately and create thousands of tiny pimples or pebbles on the ice. It is these which the curling stone rides over. If the ice was completely flat you would need much more effort to play the stones," says Mr Smith.

Kenneth Edwards, 14, is in one of the second games of the evening. He's been curling for nearly six years and has about four games a week. His mother Margaret and brother David curl, too. Large numbers of youngsters are involved in the sport and those at Lockerbie have a better record than most.

Four of its junior boys represented Scotland and won the World Junior Curling Championship in 1993 in Switzerland. Two Lockerbie boys were also in the 1995 and 1996 teams which won the championship.

Like most other ice rinks, Lockerbie has coaching facilities available for beginners. Curlers start young. Those aged 8-12 use smaller stones and are known as mini-rockers. The term "old rocker", however, does not apply to those of more mature years.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Today's hand was played in the BBL Pairs in July. South misbid his hand, but West had to defend well to punish him.

Dealer South	Love all	Match-pointed pairs
♠ 642 ♥ KJ103 ♦ 1076 ♣ J42	♠ 642 ♥ KJ103 ♦ 1076 ♣ J42	♠ 642 ♥ KJ103 ♦ 1076 ♣ J42

S	W	N	E
1C	Pass	1H	Pass
2D	Pass	2C	Pass
3S	Pass	4C	Pass
4NT	Pass	5C	All Pass

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: Six of spades

South made three poor bids. After the response of One Heart to his opening One Club, it was clear to rebid 3NT. If his partner insisted on going back to hearts, singleton queen would be at least as useful as a small doubleton. When North preferred to bid Three Clubs over South's Two Diamonds, about the weakest bid he could make, again South should have bid 3NT. His bid of Three Spades should be played as enquiring about his partner's spade holding for No-Trump purposes. As he held the suit strongly it was his duty to go 3NT. Finally 4NT (Blackwood) by South was an overstatement: all North had done was sign off, so even if he had an ace there would still be too many holes to make Six Clubs a good contract.

South won the spade lead, drew two rounds of trumps and played the queen of hearts. If, as West, you knew that was declarer's only heart, what would you do? It is still correct to duck. If you take it, declarer makes two spades and three heart tricks, a diamond and five clubs. If you duck, declarer only gets one heart trick, and goes off even if he overtakes with dummy's king and then plays the jack he will only make two heart tricks.

The declarers in 3NT had an easier time. After a spade lead they could play the queen of hearts and overtake with the king, and then continue with two tricks in spades, two in hearts and five in clubs.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Answers on page 45

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Recent statistics show that 124 governments around the world officially recognise tournament chess as a sport. A recent study by Dr Christian Hollinsky, in Vienna, who subjected chess players under tournament conditions to physical and psychometric tests, measuring heart rate, blood pressure, stress and so on, indicates that chess players show greater signs of physical activity during a competition game than do competitors in many standard sports.

Dr Hollinsky's study demonstrated that chess players who were in good physical condition, even those of advanced age, are better able to withstand the physical pressures of tournament chess. During a tournament game the heart rate of chess players is comparable to that of cyclists while adrenalin levels in chess can be even greater than those in both cycling and football.

Adams win

In the tenth round, England drew 2-2 with Armenia. Stuart Conquest lost his game but Michael Adams redressed the balance with this victory.

White: Rafael Vaganian
Black: Michael Adams
Erevan Olympiad, September 1996

English Opening

1 Nf3	Nf6
2 c4	b6
3 g3	c5
4 Bg2	Bb7
5 0-0	0-0
6 Nc3	Bc7
7 Re1	Ne4
8 Qc2	Nc3
9 dxc3	Qc7
10 B4	0-0
11 Rxd1	Nc3
12 Ng5	Bg5
13 Bxg5	h6
14 Bc1	0-0

White resigns

Diagram of final position

Olympiad update

With two rounds to go in the Chess Olympiad, both the England men's and women's teams still have chances for the silver medals. In the men's event Russia leads with 31 points. In the eleventh round England beat Sweden. In the women's event Georgia has a firm grip on the lead with 24½ points with six teams in the chasing pack, of which England is one. In the eleventh round England drew 1½-1½ with Georgia.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Solution on page 45

Solution on page 45



A player follows the highly-expensive granite stone as it "roars" its way down the ice

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on Sky Sports**

Underdogs Mayo thwarted as Gaelic football's replayed final follows familiar script

Grand occasion to celebrate all Ireland

Last-minute point by Rielly gives Meath title

Meath 2-9
Mayo 1-11

FROM MARTIN BREHENY
IN DUBLIN

A LAST-MINUTE point by Brendan Rielly earned Meath a dramatic victory over Mayo in the All-Ireland Senior Football Final replay in front of 65,802 spectators at Croke Park yesterday.

It was a heartbreaking end for Mayo, who were bidding to win the title for the first time since 1951. They led by six points two minutes before half-time but were worn down by a typical Meath revival, which brought them the crown for the first time since 1988.

In a high-tension encounter, marred by strong winds, both teams had a player sent off. The game was just eight minutes old when the Mayo midfielder, Liam McHale, and the Meath wing back, Colm Coyle, were dismissed after a brawl involving at least 20 players. Six others were booked.

Mayo had first use of the wind and, with James Horan and Maurice Sheridan in excellent scoring form, they led by 0-5 to 0-2 after 30 minutes. Three minutes later, the substitute, P J Loftus, scored a great goal for Mayo, but a penalty goal by Trevor Giles brought Meath back into contention, with Mayo leading 1-6 to 1-2 at half-time.

Meath made a brisk opening to the second half, scoring three points in the first five minutes. Mayo responded with two points which put them three clear by the 47th minute. They worked hard to hold onto their advantage and were two points ahead entering the final ten minutes.

Then disaster struck for Mayo. Meath's Graham Geraghty was fouled, took a quick free and put his captain Tommy Dowd in for a goal which put Meath ahead by a point.

James Horan equalised six minutes from the end, and while both sides had good scoring chances, in the closing five minutes, the only player on target was Rielly.

SCORERS: Meath: T. Giles 1-4, T. Dowd 1-3, B. Callaghan 0-1, M. Joyce 0-2, M. Sheridan 0-5, P. J. Loftus 1-0, J. Casey 0-1.
MEATH: C. Coyle, M. O'Reilly, D. Fay, M. O'Connell, C. Coyle, E. McManus, P. Reynolds, J. McGinness, J. McDermott, T. Giles, T. Dowd, G. Geraghty, C. Brady, B. Rielly (sub: O. Murphy), B. Callaghan (sub: J. Dowd).
MAYO: J. Madden, K. Mortimer, K. Carril, D. Fennell (sub: P. Fallon), P. Holmes, J. Nallen, N. Conboy, L. McHale, D. Brady, J. Horan, C. McKerron, M. Sheridan, A. Fennell (sub: T. Rielly), J. Casey, R. Dempsey (sub: P. J. Loftus).
Referee: P. McInerney.

SIMON BARNES



At Croke Park

Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was founded as a calculated affront to the British Empire. "The formation and early history of the GAA is arguably the most striking instance of politics shaping sport in modern history; it is certainly the outstanding example of the appropriation of sport by nationalism in the history of the British Isles and empire." So wrote Richard Holt in his classic of sporting history, *Sport and the British*.

This was so much the case that anyone who played other sports

was banned from the GAA. Members of the Irish constabulary and of the Dublin police were automatically forbidden from taking part in all Gaelic sports.

The political dimension of the GAA is made clear in Joyce's *Ulysses*: the saloon bar ranter,

named as the Citizen, is based on Michael Cusack, a founding member of the GAA. Joyce describes this self-appointed epitome of all Ireland's most manly virtues: "Broad shouldered big chested strong limbed frank eyed red haired freely freckled shaggy bearded wide mouthed large nosed long headed deep voiced bare kneed brawny handed hairy legged ruddy faced sinewy armed hero."

Some sports spread all over the world, but not the Gaelic ones. The whole point of them was to keep them Irish. They are a celebration of both nation and nationalism. C. L. R. James, the Trinidadian Marxist and cricket writer, is most often quoted for the line that is the cornerstone of his work: "What do they know of cricket, who only cricket know?" But no one involved in Gaelic sports would dream of thinking that sport could ever only



A Meath attack comes to nothing in the All-Ireland final replay against Mayo yesterday. Photograph: Tony Maxwell

be about sport. Thus, as we move to the 109th All-Ireland final, we find that this truth, like the game's physicality, is more true than usual. Gaelic sports are bigger than ever: recruitment is fertile and audiences, particularly television audiences, are growing.

The All-Ireland final is no living fossil: it is a vibrant occasion, with the brave sight of terraces crowned by banners held astiff by the sharpening wind. It was contested and roared on with contagious passion. It was an occasion that underlined the unique nature of the

sport and the universal nature of sporting archetypes.

For what we had was an underdog afternoon. One of sport's eternal verities is that if the underdog gets half a chance, he had better take it — because there will not be another. And Mayo had their chance in the first final, and they blew it. "They had prepared for everything except how to deal with a six-point lead," I was told.

Meath had the big guns; surely they would prevail this time. But no: Mayo soared into the lead, and began to control the match. And

then, of course, they blew it all over again. It was heart-rending stuff: a series of foolish individual mistakes and still more foolish collective decision-making undid them.

Naturally, I cheered for the underdog and, naturally, I felt the usual pleasurable pain. It is part of the common stuff of sport, after all. If you have sporting blood in your veins, you cannot attend any of sport's grand occasions — and this was unquestionably one of them — without responding.

That is why the traditional English disdain of these sports

rather bothers me. You can make jokes about hurling being the only game in which competitors are armed with an unambiguous cudgel, but then the GAA itself always like to see the hurley as a weapon to drive out the British.

What it comes down to is the act of trivialising your enemy. When in doubt, make him ludicrous. To turn something into a joke is a kind of tribute of fear. But sporting blood does allow you to rise above such things. A grand occasion. I wondered if it is possible to get a drink around here?

'It cannot help but be a fearsome and compelling spectacle'

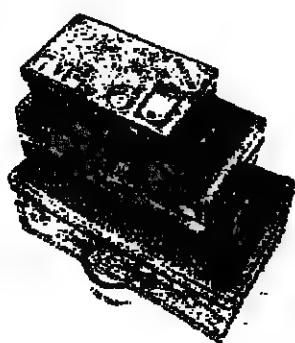
It cannot help but be a fearsome and compelling spectacle. Yet Gaelic football, and its sister sport, hurling, are seen in England as little more than jokes. How the merry Irish love to beat seven bells out of each other.

I have heard it all before, of course. You try talking to Americans about cricket or soccer. Sport tends to bring out the insularity, as well as the chauvinism, in the people who play it and watch it.

And that, of course, is rather the point of Gaelic sport. The English have always had a profoundly split understanding of the Irish: they are either unutterably evil or a bunch of leprechauns.

Gaelic sports have always been regarded in England as just another piece of paddywhackery, perhaps the most perfect example. This is not so much to miss the point as to have it upside down. The

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

UK fails to fulfil EC duty in applying broadcasting controls

Commission of the European Communities (supported by French Republic intervenor) v United Kingdom
Case C-222/94

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. N. Kakouris, D. A. O. Edwards, J.-P. Puzos, C. H. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Molinero de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, P. L. Murray, P. Jann, H. Ragnemalm and L. Sevón Advocate General C. O. Lenz

(Opinion April 30)
(Judgment September 10)

In applying, by the Broadcasting Act 1990, different regimes to domestic and non-domestic satellite television services, and exercising control over certain broadcasts falling under the jurisdiction of other member states, the United Kingdom had failed to fulfil its obligations under a Community directive.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on an application by the Commission of the European Communities under article 169 of the EC Treaty for a declaration that the United Kingdom, by failing to implement correctly Council Directive 89/552/EEC of October 3, 1989 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in member states concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities (OJ 1989 L298 p.23), had failed to fulfil its obligations under articles 2(1) and (2) and 3(2) of the directive.

The United Kingdom was charged with having failed to fulfil its obligations by:

(i) adopting, with respect to satellite broadcasts, the criteria set forth in section 43 of the 1990 Act for determining which satellite broadcasters fell under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom, and, in the exercise of that jurisdiction, applying to non-domestic satellite services a different regime from that applicable to domestic satellite services; and

(ii) exercising control over broadcasts transmitted by a broadcaster falling under the jurisdiction of another member state when those broadcasts were transmitted by a non-domestic satellite service or conveyed to the public as, inter

alia, a licensable programme service.

Article 2 of Directive 89/552 provides: "(1) Each member state shall ensure that all television broadcasts transmitted by broadcast stations under its jurisdiction, or by broadcasters who, while not being under the jurisdiction of any member state, make use of a frequency or a satellite capacity granted by, or a satellite up-link situated in, that member state, comply with the law applicable to broadcasts intended for the public in that member state.

"(2) Member states shall ensure freedom of reception and shall not restrict retransmission on their territory of television broadcasts from other member states for reasons which fall within the fields covered by this directive."

Article 3 provides: "(1) Member states shall remain free to require television broadcasters under their jurisdiction to lay down more detailed or stricter rules in the areas covered by this directive."

"(2) Member states shall, by appropriate means, ensure, within the framework of their legislation, that television broadcasters under their jurisdiction comply with the provisions of this directive."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

Section 13 of the 1990 Act prohibited the provision of television programme services other than those of the BBC and the Welsh Authority unless authorised by or under a licence granted by the Independent Television Commission.

Section 43 drew a distinction between two categories of satellite television services, namely domestic and non-domestic, both of which were considered to be television programme services and for which a broadcasting licence was therefore required, and set out the criteria for determining which broadcasts were covered by the two categories.

By section 43(1), a domestic satellite service meant a television broadcasting service where the programme included the service was transmitted by satellite from a place in the United Kingdom on a frequency allocated to the United Kingdom and for general reception in the United Kingdom.

By section 43(2), a non-domestic satellite service meant a service

consisting in transmission from a place in the United Kingdom for general reception in the United Kingdom or in a member state otherwise than on an allocated frequency, or from a place outside the United Kingdom or any member state for general reception in the United Kingdom or in a member state where the programme material was provided by a person in the United Kingdom who had editorial control over programming content.

Section 44(9) applied to domestic satellite services provisions of section 16(2) concerning conditions, laid down in articles 4 and 5 of the directive, relating to the programming of works of European origin, but section 45(2) did not do so with regard to non-domestic satellite services.

The Commission objected that section 43 did not comply with article 2(1) of the directive in four respects.

The first objection was that section 43 applied criteria other than that of establishment for determining which broadcasters fell within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom.

The Commission's position was that broadcasters under the jurisdiction of a member state were, for the purposes of article 2(1) of the directive, those established in the member state concerned, but the United Kingdom argued that the member state having jurisdiction within that article was that from whose territory the broadcast was transmitted.

If the only criterion were that of the place from which the broadcast was transmitted, the second indent of article 2(1) would be without substance.

Moreover, it was plain from the wording of article 2(1) that a broadcaster could not both be under the jurisdiction of a member state within the meaning of the first indent of that article and be in the situation envisaged by the second indent, which related only to broadcasters not falling under the jurisdiction of any member state.

The United Kingdom argued that the second indent referred to satellite broadcasting, so that the first indent of that provision, but that argument presupposed that the word "jurisdiction" had a different meaning in each of the two indents.

The argument was untenable as, given that the second indent referred only to situations in which no other member state had the jurisdiction envisaged in the first indent, it presupposed that member states could, by virtue of the first indent, have jurisdiction in the cases covered by the second indent.

The purpose of article 2(1) was to make sure that a member state ensured that all television broadcasts made by broadcasters in relation to which it could assert the jurisdiction thereby conferred complied with the law applicable to broadcasts intended for the public in that member state, including, according to article 3(2), the provisions of the directive itself.

A member state's power to enforce compliance with its laws was a function of its jurisdiction in relation to activities carried on in its territory and, subsidiarily, over persons or, as the case might be, physical objects such as spacecraft, linked to that state, even though located outside its territory.

The second indent of article 2(1) referred to the situation in which a member state, in which it had its jurisdiction in relation to the use of a satellite or its territorial jurisdiction in relation to the use of an up-link, situated in that state, to a satellite which did not fall under its jurisdiction.

However, the second indent envisaged the exercise of such jurisdiction only on condition that no other member state had jurisdiction under the first indent.

Member state B could have jurisdiction in the circumstances envisaged in the second indent only if, pursuant to the first indent, it could assert jurisdiction ratione personae over television broadcasters wishing to make use of (i) a frequency or the capacity of a satellite linked to member state A or (ii) an up-link, situated within the territory of that state, as referring to the place in which the broadcaster had the centre of its activities, in particular the place where decisions concerning programme policy were taken and the programmes to be broadcast were finally put together.

For those and other reasons, the Commission's first objection was well founded, as was its second objection, that section 43 applied a criterion which was irrelevant for the purposes of jurisdiction, namely that of reception, as the court had already found that the

criteria set out in section 43 of the Act were not in conformity with articles 2(1) and 3(2) of the directive.

The third objection was that the Act did not seek to ensure that broadcasts from non-member countries using a frequency allocated to the United Kingdom for general reception in another member state complied with the law applicable to broadcasts intended for the public in the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom submitted that there would be a breach of the second indent of article 2(1) of the directive only in the highly unrealistic event that it were to grant a frequency to a broadcaster from a non-member country without exercising control over its service.

Even though that might only be a hypothetical case, the United Kingdom did not deny that in that respect the Act was not in conformity with the directive, so that that objection also was well founded.

The fourth objection was that, besides being based on criteria other than that of the broadcaster's place of establishment, the distinction drawn in section 43 of the Act between domestic and non-domestic satellite services was not in accordance with article 2(1) in so far as section 43 made non-domestic services subject to a less stringent regime than domestic ones.

The question whether the United

Kingdom had satisfied its obligations under articles 4 and 5 of the directive with regard to non-domestic satellite services was the subject of separate proceedings under article 169 of the Treaty.

Since the United Kingdom did not deny that a less stringent regime was applied to non-domestic services, the only question arising in the present proceedings was whether article 2(1) precluded such different treatment.

While a member state could, under article 3(1), lay down stricter rules in the areas covered by the directive, the fact remained that, under article 2(1), all broadcasts transmitted by broadcasters under the jurisdiction of that member state or over which it was required to exercise jurisdiction pursuant to the second indent of article 2(1) had to comply with the law applicable to broadcasts intended for the public in that member state.

That objection was therefore well founded.

Finally, the Commission objected that sections 44 and 45 of the Act, dealing with the licensing of domestic and non-domestic satellite services, were not in conformity with article 2(2) of the directive in that the definition of those services in section 43 of the Act included broadcasts falling under the jurisdiction of other member states, thereby giving rise to the possibility of double control.

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The question whether the United

The United Kingdom did not deny that section 43 extended to all broadcasters transmitting from its territory.

If therefore was held that, by adopting criteria other than that of establishment, provided for in article 2(1) of the directive, section 43 of the Act, contrary to article 2(1) of the directive, also applied to broadcasters falling under the jurisdiction of other member states by reason of their establishment in those states, so that the final objection was also well founded.

On those grounds, the European Court of Justice declared:

By adopting, with respect to satellite broadcasts, the criteria set forth in section 43 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 for the purpose of determining which satellite broadcasters fell under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom and, in the context of that jurisdiction, by applying different regimes to domestic satellite services and non-domestic satellite services, and by exercising control over broadcasts which were transmitted by broadcasters falling under the jurisdiction of other member states when those broadcasts were transmitted by a non-domestic satellite service or conveyed to the public as a licensable programme service, the United Kingdom had failed to fulfil its obligations under articles 2(1) and (2) and 3(2) of Directive 89/552.

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Imposing anti-dumping duty

Climax Paper Converters Ltd v Council of the European Union

Case T-155/94

A policy of the Community institutions, in relation to the imposition of anti-dumping duties, of refusing individual treatment to undertakings from non-market economy countries, but imposing a single duty in respect of the entire country, was not contrary to the letter, purpose or spirit of the basic anti-dumping regulation. If the policy was necessary for the Community to protect itself against dumping and against the risk of circumvention of measures being circumvented.

The Court of First Instance of the European Communities so held, inter alia, on September 18 when dismissing an application for the annulment of Council Regulation (EC) No 3064/93 of December 22, 1993 imposing an anti-dumping duty on imports into the Community of photographic albums in bookbound form originating in the People's Republic of China (OJ 1993 L333 p.67).

The court said that the applicant claimed, inter alia, that Council Regulation (EEC) No 2423/88 of July 11, 1988 on protection against dumped or subsidised imports from countries not members of the EEC (OJ 1988 L209 p.1), required the Community institutions to grant individual treatment whenever that was possible and particularly where, as was the present case, the undertaking had fully cooperated during the anti-dumping investigation.

However, there was no provision in Regulation 2423/88 which

prohibited the imposition of a single anti-dumping duty for state-trading countries.

Moreover, in pursuing the disputed policy, the institutions did not wrongly interpret the term "if practicable" in article 13(2) of that regulation, which provided that anti-dumping regulations "shall indicate in particular... the name of the supplier, if practicable..."

It was not so practicable if, in order to avoid the risk of circumventing anti-dumping duties, it was necessary to impose a single duty for an entire country, and that was particularly so where, in the case of a state-trading country, the Community institutions had examined the situation of the exporters concerned and were not convinced that those exporters were acting independently of the state.

However, there was no provision in Regulation 2423/88 which

Scots Law Report September 30 1996 Court of Session

Choosing law of restitutionary remedy when contract is void

Baring Brothers & Co Ltd v Cunningham District Council

Before Lord Penrose [Judgment May 24]

Where a forward-rate swap contract was void ab initio by reason of being beyond the powers of one of the parties, the proper law of any restitutionary remedies available was not necessarily the same as that specified in the choice-of-law clause in the contract.

Neither, the court was entitled to hear proof on the matter of whether there was in reality only one centre with which the transaction had a material connection, which might or might not be in the same jurisdiction as that specified in the choice-of-law clause.

Lord Penrose so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session when allowing Baring Brothers & Co Ltd a proof before answer in an action of payment brought by them against Cunningham District Council.

Mr Gerard Moynihan for the pursuers; Mr Neil Davidson, QC, for the defenders.

LORD PENROSE said that the pursuers were a bank who had entered into a forward-rate swap agreement with the defenders on September 2, 1988. It incorporated the standard form terms of the British Bankers' Association.

It was agreed between the parties that the decision in *Morgan Guaranty Trust Co v Lothian Regional Council* (1995 SLT 299) the contract was ultra vires the defenders and therefore void ab initio.

There was a choice-of-law clause specifying that English law was to apply to the contract. The pursuers sought restitution by repayment of the excess of sums paid by them to the council over sums paid by the council under the contract.

It was agreed that under Scots law the claim was extinguished by prescription and that under English law the limitation period had not expired.

His Lordship observed that the choice of law applicable to restitutionary claims when a contract was held or admitted to be void after partial or complete execution had been the subject of debate among eminent jurists and other commentators, but had received little attention from the courts. There might be various reasons for that.

It was possible that the issues which arose in the present case might have been raised in *Morgan*. The choice-of-law clause in that case provided that the agreement was governed by and was to be construed in accordance with English law.

Counsel for the pursuers suggested that if its argument were correct, *Morgan* might have disposed of without converting a court of five judges, in that the remedy in restitution would have been open to the pursuers according to the proper law of the obligation.

It was not clear that that would have been so and it would be inappropriate to express any view on counsel's suggestion. Litigation was a practical art in which the results for which the parties

respectively contended might be but incidentally related to the elucidation of legal principle.

While that reduced to some extent the impact of the absence of comment on the issue in *Morgan* the novelty of counsel's argument in a Scottish context could not but be emphasised by the fact that the point was not taken by counsel involved in that case.

In summarising the argument, counsel for the pursuer had identified three stages in the development of a claim for restitution. At the first stage, parties acted on the assumption that there was in force a contract which regulated their relationship.

At the second, an issue arose as to the validity of the contract and that had to be determined on conventional theory by the putative proper law of the contract. For present purposes one was concerned only with the case where the decision dictated by the putative proper law was that the contract was void.

In that event there was a third stage at which one sought to determine the nature and extent of any restitutionary remedy to be applied.

The quasi-contractual issue did not arise in a vacuum. It arose by reference to events or transactions which had taken place under reference to a contract believed to have been valid according to a particular legal system.

That system ex hypothesi held the contract void; but its restitutionary remedies had to be assumed to be consistent with the system of law generally applicable.

In summary, the general proposition was that even where a contract was void all questions which related to claims for restitution were regulated by the putative proper law, at least where that had a practical connection with the transaction which had taken place.

Counsel for the defenders had argued that that analysis was without support in authority. It was in reality a contention that the choice-of-law clause in the void contract determined the proper law of the restitutionary remedy. One was left without any truly objective justification for applying English law.

There were few facts on which one could rely in deciding whether Scots or English law was the law with which the arrangement between the parties had the closest connection.

Counsel for the defenders had argued that dicta of the Lord President in *Morgan* (at p.17) were binding and led to the conclusion in the present case that the pursuers could not found in any way on anything contained in the decision in *Morgan* and it was inconsistent to rely on direct application of a provision in a void contract in determining the choice of law in the context of restitution.

The context in which the Lord President's comments had been made were wholly different from

that of the present case. *Morgan* had been concerned exclusively with domestic issues of Scots law.

The Lord President's comments could not be read as expressing a view on how to identify the system of law with which the quasi-contractual obligation on which the pursuers relied had connection.

For whatever reason, the issue between the parties was never focused as one of conflict, and the court had not been required to consider that matter. In his Lordship's opinion, the decision in *Morgan* did not determine the present case.

His Lordship considered it appropriate to deal with that issue as one of principle on the basis that there was no authority adverse to that approach. The extensive discussion of the academic commentaries reflected the view that there was no binding authority and that there was a lack of convincing analysis in such authority as existed on the critical issues in the case.

The net creditor in many transactions might have come to believe at some stage that liability would ultimately be avoided and that excess payments would be recovered.

Whatever the relevance of such a belief to the right to recover once the law governing the restitutionary claim had been ascertained, his Lordship did not

consider that there was any reason why it should have a bearing on the choice of law in the first place.

Where there was not an actual relationship in law derived from or defined by contract, identification of an erroneous belief or false assumption in the existence of a contractual obligation as a relevant factor would imply that the absence of averment or proof of that factor could affect the choice of law.

A more satisfactory test was whether in fact the payment had been made because there was an apparent contractual obligation to do so. If that was the case, the obligation to pay was a contractual obligation and the choice of law was governed by the proper law of the contract.

The objective features in the typical case were those related to the fact of transfer and the absence of obligation at the time of that transfer. Gratuitous intent could usually be excluded leaving apparent contractual obligation as the only factor explaining the transfer.

If that were correct, the question became whether there was or should be a rule that the putative proper law of the apparent contract should dictate the choice of law to govern any restitutionary claim.

Despite the extensive academic debate there appeared to his Lordship to be a fundamental difficulty to be overcome in seeking within what was ex hypothesi a nullity the solution to the choice of law aspects of the problem of

restitution.

A restitutionary remedy was available only because there was no contract. The proper law had exhausted its purpose in dictating that conclusion and it was not attractive to proceed then to give direct effect to a term of that contract when the contract had ceased to have any validity as between the parties.

The qualified enactment of the Rome Convention, in the Contracts (Applicable Law) Act 1990, implied that within the United Kingdom the determination of the putative proper law of a contract which had been void ab initio and the determination of the proper law of a consequential restitutionary claim might identify different systems.

If that were not so there would have been no point in permitting the derogation nor in taking advantage of it.

Leaving aside the peculiar problems associated with choice-of-law clauses, it might well be that in the majority of cases in which a remedy in restitution was required following failure of a contract, for whatever reason, the facts and circumstances were likely to point to the same system of law as appropriate for the resolution of the quasi-contractual issues between the parties as would have been appropriate for the resolution of contractual issues had the contract stood.

There were issues of fact that would require to be decided before forming a firm opinion whether the proper law of the obligation was the law of England and before deciding, as a matter of fact, what the law of England was.

Law agents: Dundas & Wilson, CS; Lindsays, WS.

That would best result from the application of a broad test from which one might reasonably accept two propositions:

1 The restitutionary obligation was governed by the proper law of that obligation; and

2 The proper law of the obligation was the law of the country with which the critical events had their closest and most real connection.

The issue at that stage was whether the pursuer had a relevant case to support the assertion that the law of England governed the quasi-contractual remedies sought.

In his Lordship's opinion, there were a number of factors which, on an objective basis, and subject to proof might support the application of the law of England as the appropriate system of law to regulate the parties' restitutionary rights and obligations.

In his Lordship's view, the pursuers were entitled to proceed to proof on the basis of their argument that there was only one centre with which the transaction had any material connection, and that was London.

There were issues of fact that would require to be decided before forming a firm opinion whether the proper law of the obligation was the law of England and before deciding, as a matter of fact, what the law of England was.

Law agents: Dundas & Wilson, CS; Lindsays, WS.

Factors influencing caution for expenses

Margaret McTear v Imperial Tobacco Ltd

Before Lord Sutherland, Lord Milne and Lord Murray [Judgment July 19]

In determining whether to order a pursuer to find caution for expenses, the court had to consider the cumulative effect of any factors advanced in favour of the application as well as the individual factors themselves. Further, an appellate court could properly disturb the decision of the judge at first instance only if his decision was plainly wrong.

An Extra Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held in an action of reparation brought by Mrs Margaret McTear against Imperial Tobacco Ltd, refusing a reclaiming motion by the defenders against an interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary refusing to order the pursuer to find caution for expenses.

Mr Colin McEachern, QC, for the pursuer and respondent; Mr Nigel Emslie, QC and Mr Stephen Woolman for the defenders and reclaimers.

LORD SUTHERLAND, giving the opinion of the court, said that the pursuer sought damages in respect of the death of her husband from lung cancer which, it was alleged, had been attributable to cigarette smoking.

The case against the defenders, who were manufacturers of the brand smoked by the deceased, was that they had been aware for a substantial period before 1964 that smokers risked damage to their health but had given no warning of

that risk to potential smokers until 1971.

The pursuer had applied for and been refused legal aid, which refusal had been confirmed on review. After that refusal, the defenders had entreated a motion to order the pursuer to find caution for expenses. That motion had been refused by the Lord Ordinary.

For the reclaimers, it was accepted that the Lord Ordinary had a discretion in deciding whether or not to order the pursuer to find caution. It had been submitted, however, that the discretion had been vitiated in one major respect.

A number of factors had been put before the Lord Ordinary by the defenders to justify the motion, and it had been submitted that any one of those factors would justify the motion, but that the cumulative effect of all of the factors was such as to justify the motion.

It had been submitted that the Lord Ordinary had dealt in his opinion with each of the factors, but had done so individually and had come to the conclusion that each was not a good reason for an order for caution or that it was not a decisive consideration.

In his Lordship's view it was clear from the Lord Ordinary's opinion that he had correctly directed himself to the effect that a number of factors could cumulatively justify the ordering of caution.

While it was true that he had disposed of the matter in one sentence and that he had not given a detailed explanation as to why he had come to that conclusion, he had set out the correct test and all

the factors which had been advanced by the defenders, and having dealt fully with each, it was perhaps not surprising that he had not gone through the exercise again in coming to his conclusion as to their cumulative effect.

The other ground upon which it had been said that the reclaiming motion should be allowed was that the Lord Ordinary's decision was one which was plainly wrong.

The test to be applied in cases where a Lord Ordinary's decision was under attack was set out in *C v G* (1985) 1 WLR 647 which had been referred to with approval in *Lord Fraser of Tullybelton v Lord Fraser of Tullybelton* (1993 SC 111).

Counsel for the reclaimers had argued that the court was free to order caution in any circumstances where the interests of justice so required and all other so called rules were subsidiary to that principle. The so called right of the citizen to come to court to have his claim heard without impediment was a subsidiary rule.

Counsel had accepted that mere impecuniosity was not by itself sufficient to warrant an order for caution, but it was a powerful factor. The authorities were clear to the effect that not much more would be required than mere impecuniosity in order to warrant an order for caution.

His Lordship did not disagree with that broad proposition provided there was borne in mind what had been emphasised by Lord Fraser in *Stevenson* that it

would be wrong that a litigant with a stateable case should in effect be excluded from the court by an order for caution unless in exceptional circumstances.

Having considered the various factors, those of importance appeared to his Lordship to be that the defenders would undoubtedly incur substantial expense in defending the action which would be recoverable from the pursuer, the fact that the pursuer's case was faced with a number of factual difficulties and the fact that legal aid had been refused.

Against those factors had to be weighed the proposition that a litigant with a stateable case was entitled to come to court to have that case decided even though that litigant might be impecunious and might not be in a position to meet the possible expenses awarded against him.

The role of the court was not to come to a conclusion as to which of the two competing contentions was of greater weight, but to consider whether the factors advanced by the defenders were so cogent and compelling that they overcame the general principle that an impecunious litigant was entitled to advance a stateable case.

Having carefully considered all the factors advanced by the defenders and bearing in mind that they had to be considered cumulatively, his Lordship was unable to say that it was such an exceptional case that no Lord Ordinary properly directing himself could have come to any conclusion other than that caution should be ordered

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Source: FT Information

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Chartwell International, CNC Properties, Edinburgh Fund Managers, Edinburgh Investment Trust, Environmental Investment, Healthall Group, Hiscox, Fiscal Properties, Inch Kenneth Kelang, MSB International, New Guinness Securities, Oasis Stores, Scottish Assam Investment, Self Sealing Systems, Unicom International. Finalists: Bellwinch, DCS Group, Guardian Media Group, Hiding Estate, Northern Leisure, Scottish Asian Investment. Economic statistics: UK August final M4; UK August consumer credit; UK September provisional M0.

TOMORROW

Interims: Ash & Lacey, Boosey & Hawkes, Cardinal Business Group, House of Fraser, Hat Pin, Maiden Group, OS Holdings, Samba Fund, Watts, Blake & Beane. Finalists: Frogmore Estates, Loyds Thompson Group. Economic statistics: UK September purchasing managers index; US August leading indicators. IMF annual meeting opens.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Albany Inv Tr, Bank of Scotland, Bliton, Blenheim, Hewden Stuart, HTV Group, JJB Sports, Lamont Holdings, Time Products. Finalists: None scheduled. Economic statistics: UK September official reserves.

THURSDAY

Interims: Denison International, Hopkinson Group, Martin International Holdings, Schroder Spill Fund. Finalists: WWI, Galliford. Economic statistics: Bundesbank central council meeting; IMF annual meeting ends.

FRIDAY

Interims: HC Singaby. Finalists: Waterman Partnership Holdings. Economic statistics: August housing starts; US September non-farm payrolls; Halifax house price index; UK Nationwide house price index.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Sell Kwik Save, Chesterton; Buy The Personal Number Company, Courts Consulting Group, The Observer; Buy Enterprise. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy HTV, Groupe Gerard, Oasis; Hold Tottenham Hotspur, Ockham. Independent on Sunday: Buy MR, Morrison Construction, JJB Sports. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Standard Chartered. Sunday Express: Buy Glaxo Wellcome.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

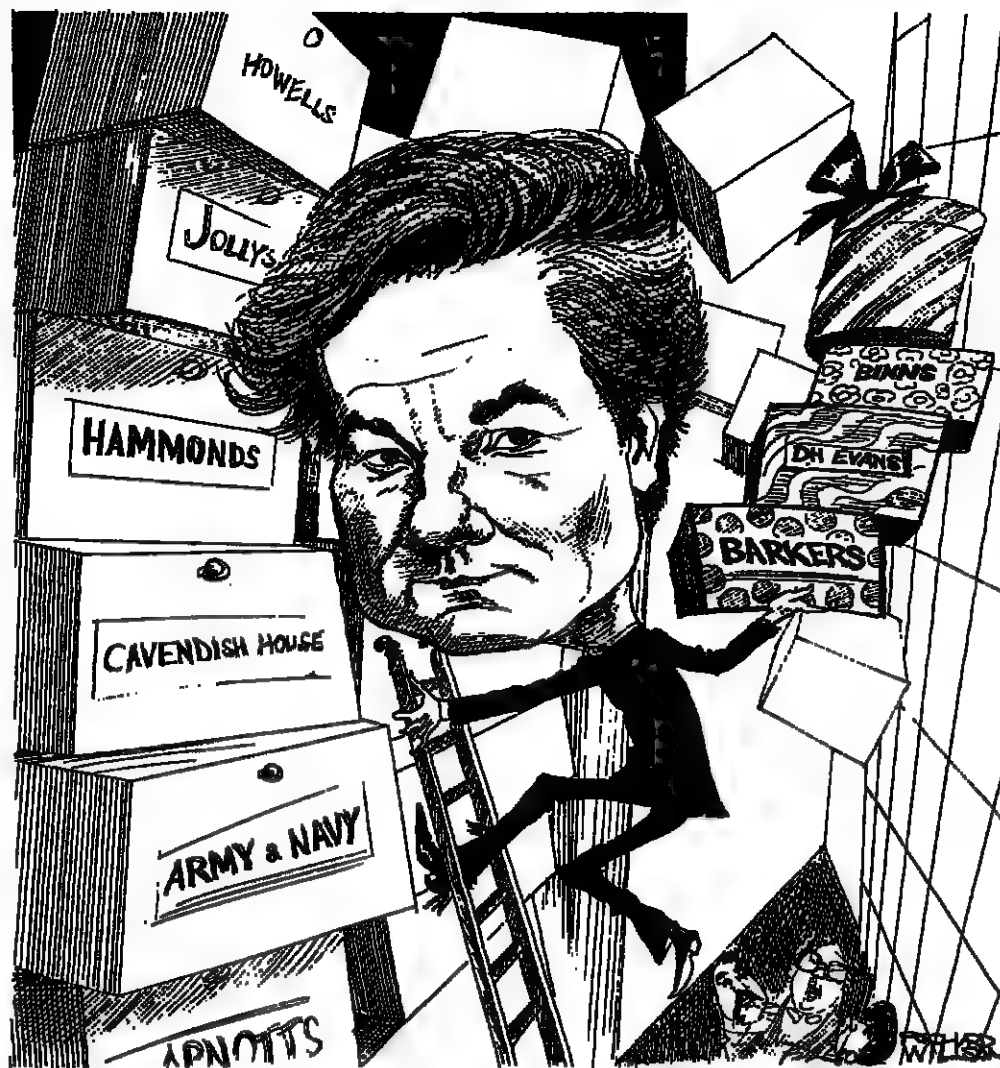
Losses past haunt House of Fraser

HOUSE OF FRASER: These will be maiden results for John Coleman, the chief executive appointed in April. Unfortunately, they are unlikely to make pleasant reading, with increased losses expected in tomorrow's half-year figures.

Brokers say that the results will reflect the mistakes made by the previous management, showing pre-tax losses ballooning from £4.3 million to £7 million, while the loss per share climbs from 1.3p to 2.2p. The dividend is likely to be maintained at 1.7p.

It is doubtful that Mr Coleman has been wasting his time since taking over the reins and it is likely that the figures will be accompanied by the unveiling of a new strategy for the group. This, and the apparent upturn in consumer confidence, should result in a brighter future.

Unlike many other retailers, Fraser, under Brian McGowan, its chairman, has been cautious about current trading. The statement, at the annual meeting in May, talked of 1996-97 as a period of consolidation. Like-for-like sales in the first 17 weeks of the year were up 5.1 per cent, but remain overshadowed by the poor performance of the bought womenswear division. This, combined with the clearing back of lines of fashion stock, means that there is unlikely to be any improvement in margins until the second half at the earliest. NatWest Securities, the broker, says that tomorrow's figures will show a further decline in margins of almost 1 per cent, with overall sales held back by the closure last year of four stores.



Consolidation has meant a decline in margins at House of Fraser for Brian McGowan

trails behind the average 22 per cent increase for shareholders of rival banks.

Loan volumes are estimated to be increasing at about 12 per cent, with margins holding up relatively well. Much of this gain will have been offset by rising costs, which are reckoned to have increased 16 per cent year-on-year. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts should drop by about £5 million, to £60 million.

HTV GROUP: The group's share price last week overcame initial nervousness, prompted by

talk of a European alliance as speculation about a bid from Carlton was revived. This week, the independent broadcaster will have a chance to shore up its defences when it unveils half-year figures on Wednesday. These are expected to show pre-tax profits growing by about £500,000, to £6.4 million, with earnings per share 4 per cent higher at 5p.

The market will be anxious to establish whether there has been any tail off in advertising revenue similar to that already indicated by other broadcasters. The general feeling is that HTV will have

recorded a decline in its share of advertising revenue, but stringent cost-control measures will ensure that operating profits will be up by about 7 per cent.

HEWDEEN STUART: The group has made no secret of the fact that trading conditions have been difficult during the first half of the year, and that will no doubt be reflected when the group reports on Wednesday.

But Hewden Stuart is a well-managed company and appears to have learnt its lesson since the problems of the late 1980s, when

profits fell away to almost nothing. In spite of a difficult first half, brokers are still predicting an increase in pre-tax profits of about 22 per cent to almost £20 million. This underlines just how much the group is capable of achieving when good times return to the construction industry.

NatWest Securities, the broker, is a fan of Hewden Stuart. It points out that the group derives a return of between 20 and 23 per cent on its book capital employed. But an aggressive capital expenditure programme and the short life span of its plant equipment fleet means that its stated capital employed is close to its replacement value.

The fact that the management has never set out to paint a brighter picture of prospects this year suggests that costs have been kept to a minimum and any erosion in profits will have been minimal.

Earnings, up 22 per cent at 5p, should have improved in line with profits. The growth in the interim dividend will be of a more modest nature, showing a rise of 14 per cent to 0.8p. A payment of 3p has been pencilled in for the full year.

BLenheim: Half-year figures on Wednesday will probably come as a welcome change to the directors of Blenheim, who seem to have spent the best part of the past few months locked in takeover talks. After the breakdown of earlier talks with Reed Elsevier and United News & Media, it now looks as though Reed has decided to have another crack at it. Both sides are now trying to agree a price.

In the meantime, Blenheim is expected to turn in lower profits in the first six months compared with £13.1 million for the corresponding period, which in turn was down on the previous year.

Brokers' expectations currently range from £9 million to £12 million and the shortfall will come as little surprise to the City. They say the final outcome always depends on how many of the big shows the group can stage. This apart, Blenheim should now begin to benefit from recent rationalisation and expansion moves into Eastern Europe.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Season for signals from the seaside

The biggest focus for London financial markets this week will be the Labour Party conference, in Blackpool, which will be tracked closely for any new hints on economic policy. John Shepperd, chief economist of Yamaichi International Europe, said: "With the Conservative Party conference next week, we are now entering what promises to be one of the longest election campaigns ever. A daunting prospect."

Among British economic statistics due this week are the publication of M0 money supply growth and consumer credit, both today. M0 is expected to have shown no growth in September, according to a consensus of market forecasts by MMS International, which would take its annual growth rate down to 6.5 per cent, from 7.5 per cent in August.

Consumer credit growth is reckoned to have been a touch weaker than the strength to July.

Tomorrow the latest report from British purchasing managers should reveal another modest improvement in manufacturing activity. Wednesday sees figures for the official reserves. August housing starts will be reported on Friday.

American developments will continue to be of keen interest after last week's surprise decision by the US Federal Reserve not to raise interest rates, as many had expected. Among the key US statistics this week are figures for personal income in August, published today. August leading indicators and September domestic car and truck sales tomorrow. August construction spending on Wednesday and August factory orders and home completions on Thursday.

The most eagerly awaited comes last Friday's September labour market data. Strong employment growth in August, with non-farm payrolls up 250,000 in the month and a fall in the unemployment rate to 5.1 per cent, convinced many that interest rates were set to rise.

In September it is thought fewer jobs were added, partly because the survey period was only four weeks. The unemployment rate may tick up again to 5.2 per cent.

On Saturday, there are two potentially interesting events. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, addresses a banking conference in Hawaii, and tentative arrangements have been made for another European Union conference in Dublin.

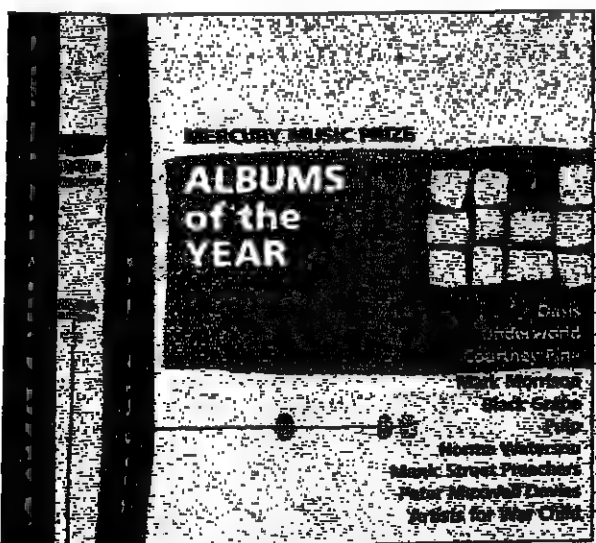
JANET BUSH

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

The Mercury Music Prize CD for £1

Today, for just £1, readers of *The Times* can get the Mercury Music Prize CD, which includes tracks by top names Pulp, Oasis and the very best of British artists. Ten top albums were shortlisted for the 1996 Mercury Music Prize, ranging as usual across the entire spectrum of British and Irish music, and this CD features a hit track from each. From the rousing three-chord pop of Oasis's *Hey Now!* to an excerpt from Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Beltane Fire*, a hectic orchestral piece originally commissioned as the score for a ballet.



1996 MERCURY MUSIC PRIZE ALBUMS OF THE YEAR TRACK LISTING

1. Courtney Pine *The 37th Chamber* 4.20
2. Mark Morrison *Return Of The Mack* 4.34
3. Pulp *Disco 2000* 4.33
4. Black Grape *A Big Day In The North* 4.10
5. Norma Waterson *There Ain't No Sweet Man That's Worth The Salt Of My Tears* 2.53
6. Manic Street Preachers *A Design For Life* 4.17
7. Oasis *Hey Now!* 5.41
8. Radiohead (for War Child) *Lucky* 4.20
9. Underworld *Confusion The Waitress* 6.46
10. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies/BBC Philharmonia *The Beltane Fire* (excerpt) 4.29

Musical excellence, regardless of genre, remains the sole criterion for inclusion on the Mercury list (David Sinclair writes), but in judging who should win the prize, the hardest part of the task in previous years has been to decide between records of similar provenance (Suede vs

the Auteurs in 1993, Portishead vs Tricky in 1995).

However, this year the panel were torn between two vastly differing albums, eventually giving the award to Pulp for *Disco 2000* (represented here by *Disco 2000*), but also making a special acknowledgment of veteran folk singer Norma Waterson. Her delightfully nimble version of Fred Fisher's song, *There Ain't No Sweet Man That's Worth The Salt Of My Tears*, is typical of her self-titled album's warmth and understated charm.

Radiohead, whose own album, *The Bends*, was shamefully omitted from the 1995 short list, make a belated appearance this time around with their transcendent anthem, *Lucky*, representing the many artists who contributed to the War Child charity album *Help*.

A *Design For Life* from the Manic Street Preachers' album, *Everything Must Go*, was one of the most admired singles of the year, and the chart-topping *Return Of The Mack* from Mark Morrison's album of the same name was one of the biggest-selling songs of 1996.

Underworld and Black Grape provide two widely contrasting examples of the best in contemporary British dance music with *Confusion The Waitress* (from *Second Toughest In The Infants*) and *A Big Day In The North* (from *It's Great When You're Straight...Yeah!*) respectively. And Courtney Pine shows exactly why he is one of the most respected saxophonists of his generation, with a burst of hyperactive soloing sandwiched between the lilting refrain of *The 37th Chamber*, taken from his album, *Modern Day Jazz Stories*.

It is safe to say that no other album will be able to boast ten such diverse yet exceptional pieces of contemporary music...at least until next year's Mercury Music Prize short-list is announced.

David Sinclair was one of the ten judges of the 1996 Mercury Music Prize.

HOW TO GET YOUR CD

Simply collect two of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* and attach them to the coupon with Token 1, right. Token 2 appears on Monday. Complete the questionnaire and send it with the three tokens and a cheque or postal order for £1, payable to Times Newspapers, to cover the cost of postage, packaging and distribution, to: *The Times* PT131, Mercury CD Offer, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 8QS. The offer is not available to readers in Eire, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, or to employees of Mercury Communications or TNT. Please allow 28 days for delivery. One CD per household. This CD is not for re-sale. The closing date for the offer is October 14, 1996, and is subject to availability.



In a different class: Pulp, winners of the 1996 Mercury Music Prize

MERCURY CD APPLICATION FORM

Attach two more *Times* tokens to this form and send it, with a cheque/PO for £1 payable to Times Newspapers, to: *The Times* PT131, Mercury CD Offer, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 8QS. The closing date for this offer is October 14, 1996.

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1. Are you a Mercury customer (excluding the One2One mobile service)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. On average, how much is your quarterly telephone bill?
☐ Less than £75 ☐ £75-£100 ☐ £100-£150 ☐ £150+

3. How often do you use your telephone to make international calls?
☐ Once a week or more ☐ Less than once a week ☐ Never

4. Do you mainly use your telephone for
☐ Private calls ☐ Business calls ☐ Both private and business

5. Do you have or are you considering buying any of the following?
 Have _____ Considering _____

Fax machine ☐
 Internet ☐
 Mobile phone ☐
 Personal computer (PC) ☐
 Telephone chargecard ☐

6. How many adults at your address use the telephone? _____

7. How many telephone lines do you have?

☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three or more

It would help us if you would answer these four questions:

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (please tick box)

☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you do not wish to receive mailings of offers or services from *The Times* or other companies carefully selected by Times Newspapers Limited please tick box ☐



BY PAUL DURMAN

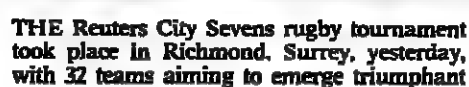
The planned site for the new engine factory is Hams Hall in North Warwickshire. The other options considered by BMW were in Hungary and Austria.

BY MARTIN WALLER

The broker said the issue was already oversubscribed, with most investors applying at the middle of the indicative range or above. There had been suggestions that City institutions regarded this range as too ambitious, particularly at the top end which would represent a significant premium, on

Robert Peel, Thistle's chief executive, made much during City presentations of Thistle's fast earnings growth although institutions have professed concern about the short-term effects on earnings of low rates of tax and depreciation. This-

□ Brands Hatch Leisure, which owns Oulton Park, Snetterton and Cadwell Park as well as the Kent motor racing circuit, is seeking a stock exchange quotation via a placing by Beeson Gregory. The company was bought from Eagle Star by the late John Foulston's family in 1987. Nicola Foulston has been chief executive since 1990. The group hopes to raise at least £8 million in new money in a float that could value the enlarged company at up to £40 million.



from the pack. The event, in its twenty-fourth year, was held in aid of Sparks, which funds research in children's medicine.

As part of linked reforms, KPMG suggests that glossy annual reports should normally contain only a summary financial statement to shareholders, as a handful of companies now do. Full accounts could be folded in for professionals and for private shareholders who wanted them.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch 1.71		16.21
Belgium Fr 51.89	47.59	
Canada \$ 2.242	2.082	
Cyprus Cyp£ 0.769	0.790	
Denmark Krk 3.70	3.84	
Finland Mk 7.73	7.79	
France Fr 2.50	2.32	
Germany Dm 2.79	2.93	
Greece Dr 380	365	
Hong Kong \$ 12.71	11.71	
Iceland 115	05	
Iceland Pt 1.03	0.96	
India S Lk 5.37	5.42	
Italy Lira 2.481	2.326	
Japan Yen 189.90	170.80	
Malta 2.818	2.598	
Netherlands Gld 2.38	2.18	
New Zealand \$ 10.68	9.86	
Norway Kr 253.00	234.80	
Portugal Esc 7.87	6.87	
Spain Pta 206.50	183.50	
Sweden Kr 11.02	10.22	
Switzerland Fr 2.09	1.91	
Turkey Lira 144.400	136.400	
USA \$ 599	1,530	

Rates for spot denominated bank orders, payable or only as supplied by Barclays Bank, London.

Young's papers to be studied

The Serious Fraud Office will have its first chance this week to study documents seized from the Buckinghamshire home of Peter Young, the unit-trust manager sacked by Morgan Grenfell for gross misconduct.

With officers from City of London police, the SFO searched Mr Young's £450,000 house in Amersham on Friday evening. They took away a number of documents, but no arrest was made.

The SFO formally began its investigation of the Morgan Grenfell affair last Thursday, based on information from the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the City watchdog. Mr Young's controversial handling of £14 billion of private investors' money has cast serious doubt on valuations that made his trusts spectacular performers.

Druid quote

Druid Group, an information technology consultancy that tailors standard network software for big companies, is seeking a Stock Exchange quotation and placing sponsored by SBC Warburg. Founded in 1987 by David Thompson, now managing director, Druid more than doubled pre-tax profit to £3 million in the year to June 30, on turnover up 94 per cent to £12 million.

On-Line offer

On-Line, which develops and supplies electronic games for CD-Rom and the Internet, hopes to raise £1 million for expansion through an institutional and retail offer on the Alternative Investment Market in a month's time. On-Line provides games playable by more than 20 people at once, and is developing The Interactive Rocky Horror Show for CD-Rom. Grant Thornton is adviser and IA Pritchard the broker.

Insurance unions to sue over mergers

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

UNION leaders have pledged to sue insurance companies that fail to notify them in advance of mergers that cause swingeing job cuts among their members.

The threat follows a wave of redundancies as the insurance industry undergoes the most dramatic shake-up in its recent history. The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union (MSF), one of the biggest unions involved, is angry that often employees first hear that they may lose their jobs from newspapers and morning radio reports in a "corndrake cull".

MSF is negotiating with management over job losses after the merger between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance; the proposed merger between Refuge Assurance and United Friendly; Liverpool Victoria's purchase of the Frizzell Group, the insurers, and at Scottish Widows, the mutual life insurer that announced earlier this year that 500 jobs were to go.

Tony Whiteley, assistant general secretary of the MSF, said: "While we understand that the timing of these announcements is very sensitive, we do not believe details of job losses need to be given at the same time. This is done only to please the City."

"It is possible that when we sit down with management to discuss redundancies, it will emerge that far fewer compulsory redundancies need to be made than were originally thought. At Scottish Widows, for example, there has not been a single compulsory redundancy so far."

The MSF claims continuing rationalisation has left the industry's 200,000 staff anxious about their future. "The reality for people who work in the industry is that they are in for a rough ride and they

know it," Mr Whiteley said. He believes the trend to convert mutuals into companies threatens jobs in Scottish life insurance, which has its heartland in Edinburgh. He has called a conference in Scotland, inviting both the Scottish Office and leading insurers to address these concerns.

In May Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance announced that their merger and the formation of a new company, Royal & Sun Alliance, would result in the loss of 5,000 jobs, 4,000 of them in the UK. In July 94 branches were closed and 1,300 jobs lost.

This week Lloyds TSB announced a bid for its remaining shareholding in Lloyds Abbey Life, and acknowledged that job cuts would be necessary when the business was streamlined.

Refuge and United Friendly are to shed around 1,800 jobs between them if their proposed merger goes ahead.

Some observers believe the industry could lose half the current 200,000 workforce by the end of the decade. Further cuts are expected as banks and insurers try to stay ahead of the competition.

Recent market rumour has centred on Legal & General, which is believed to have caught the eye of NatWest Bank. With a current market value of about £4 billion, L&G would probably cost £5 billion or £10 a share to buy and would be a large, but digestible acquisition for the bank.

London & Manchester has also been the subject of persistent bid rumours and Norwich Union is on the verge of announcing it is to demutualise.

Guardian Royal Exchange, widely regarded as the weak man of the composites, has been rumoured to have held talks with Commercial Union.



Lord and Lady Harris of Peckham took a trip down memory lane (well, High Street, Peckham) on Saturday to serve old customers at the very shop where they once worked as plain Phillips and Pauline 39 years ago in his family's lino and carpet emporium. The carpet king has just added it to the Harveys chain, part of his H&C Furnishings.

Firecrest faces AIM delisting

By FRASER NELSON AND HARRY CLEVELLEY

FIRECREST, the marketing-to-Internet group once hailed as the wonder stock of the Alternative Investment Market (AIM), is expected to become the first company to be delisted from it.

The Stock Exchange has told the group to name a replacement by the end of tomorrow for Singer & Friedlander, which this month resigned as its nominated adviser.

If Firecrest fails to do so, its shares will move to the unregulated OTC market. It joined AIM at 42p a share and hit 192p last year, valuing the group at £45 million. The shares were suspended at 44p. The company says it is in talks with a potential bidder.

Last week it suffered further bad publicity from allegations by the founders of Nethead, in which Firecrest has 74 per cent, after they were sacked.

Hanson starts its demerger

By CLARE STEWART

HANSON'S Operation Demerger will start taking effect tomorrow morning when dealing begins in Imperial Tobacco, the first group to be floated separately. Analysts expect Imperial shares to open at 375p to 380p, valuing it at almost £2 billion.

Shares in cigarette groups have been affected by a successful action by a smoker against BAT in the US. A new UK legal action was announced last week. Leigh Day, the lawyer, is acting for 40 long-cancer sufferers who claim Gallaher and Imperial failed to cut tar in cigarettes in the 1950s.

Early trading could see Imperial's price come under pressure as many US holders sell. When trading in Millennium Chemicals, the second Hanson arm to be demerged, begins in New York on Wednesday, UK holders may also look to sell, rather than be left

with a small US holding. One analyst said: "It will take a week to ten days before prices in either stock settle down." A mid-price of about \$25 is expected for Millennium, valuing it at £1.2 billion.

Hanson shareholders receive one share of Millennium Chemicals for every 70 Hanson shares held on October 1 and one Imperial for every ten Hanson shares. Investors who buy Hanson shares by the close of business today will receive Millennium and Imperial shares. Holdings too small to qualify will receive cash.

Low-cost dealing facilities for investors with smaller holdings of either Millennium or Imperial have been set up and run until December 2. The removal of Imperial is likely to cut the rump Hanson share price by about 38p and Millennium is expected to take away a further 22p.

Lively launch for news service

KELVIN MACKENZIE, head of Live TV, sent European Business News, the 24-hour television station, into a spin at the launch of its autumn schedule.

Accompanied by a riotous gang from TCI, the cable company, and Flextech, its European arm, Mackenzie turned up at EBN's Fleet Place studios uninvited. A search party was dispatched to hunt down Mackenzie. Adam Singer, president of TCI International, and Michael Conner, EBN's managing director, discovered the one-time Sun editor creating chaos in Studio 1 from the presenter's chair. An impromptu interview with the prankster is being kept on tape at EBN.

SEAN BLOWERS, the actor perhaps better known as Sub-officer John Hallam from TV's London's Burning, has set sail from Southampton on the Commercial Union Assurance yacht to compete in the BT Global Challenge, one of the world's roughest yacht races. Blowers, who will spend four months aboard, waved goodbye to his TV persona yesterday after Sub-officer Hallam died in a fire.

Gay protest

IVAN MASSOW, the self-consciously gay IFA, has launched a £30,000 poster campaign featuring him and his boyfriend. "For the life that you may not want Allied Dunbar to know about" is just one of the campaign slogans attacking insurance companies for loading life premiums for gay men. Around 24,000 posters will appear in London, Manchester and Edinburgh. Massow tells me that his boyfriend, a hairdresser to the stars, was unsure about appearing in the campaign, and his parents certainly aren't happy.

Moving force

BZW bosses looked pleased with themselves at the opening of the extension to the Docklands Light Railway in London. No wonder - the investment bank acted as financial adviser to the con-

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sortium that executed the project that will take commuters from Lewisham to the Isle of Dogs and back. And isn't BZW moving 3,500 employees to new headquarters in Canary Wharf next March?

Employers find the traditional three Rs are much more important than IT skills and foreign languages. Nearly half of the 700 senior managers taking part in the survey by Black Horse Relocation and Management Today said availability of a quality workforce was by far the most important criterion in choosing a new base. London displaced Birmingham as the best location. Walsall, Brighton and Halifax were least loved.

Name your choice

ROGER CORK, the insolvency expert who will hear today whether he is to be the next Lord Mayor of London, was among those at Mr Garraway's farewell party on Gresham Street. Banca Commerciale Italiana has been granted permission to redevelop its headquarters, pushing the City's much-loved watering hole out onto the streets until the owners, Philip and Sarah Iles, hear whether they can move back to their other venue on Old Broad Street, which was bombed by the IRA. Meanwhile, Mr Iles, through the City Diary, is offering two bottles of port from 1977, the year Mr Garraway was opened, or a mug of Ferrier-Jouet 1978, to the reader who dreams up a suitable name.

MORAG PRESTON

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

OCCULTATION

(c) Being hidden from view, or lost to notice. An astronomical term, referring specifically to the extinction of a heavenly body's light by the intervention of another. Such as Miss United Kingdom inadvertently or otherwise stepping between Miss France and the camera.

FARCEUR

(a) Strictly speaking, an actor or writer of farces, from the French. But in common parlance a farceur is a wag or humourist whose jokes tend towards the practical. Thus the young Barry Humphries, whose Melbourne exhibition of Dada art included a pair of boots filled with custard and labelled 'Pus in Boots', could be so described.

GODWIT

(d) A marsh-wading bird with a long, upward-curving bill. One can only wonder at the origin of this 16th-century bird-word. But its potential for the mockery and denigration of the sanctimonious is obvious.

TRILEMMA

(b) A problematic situation in which there are not two, as in a dilemma, but three possible courses of action, each having its own disadvantages. You will find this rare word useful in many of the little accidents of life, including negotiations with garages repairing your car, marital arguments, property transactions, maternal visits, children's birthday parties, household budgeting, etc., etc.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rh6-f6 g6h2-f6 and the f-pawn, assisted by the white king, will go through to promote.

Interoute to the exchange

HSBC JAMES CAPEL is this week joining in the Alternative Investment Market as the broker for Interoute, a telecoms company that is floating on Thursday.

HSBC's entrance gives a welcome boost to the junior exchange's prospects at a time when firms such as BZW and UBS are sounding a retreat. It has secured a £50 million price tag for Interoute, ranking its first AIM client among the 20 largest stocks in the market. Airtech, which makes amplifiers for base stations in mobile phone networks, is also joining next week.

at £31 million. It has raised £10.4 million after Albert E Sharp's placed 45.5 million of its shares at 68p each. Traders are expecting a premium of 10 per cent.

Trading last week was again quiet, as the FT-SE AIM index slid a further 15.5 points to 1,026.30. But the week's new issues - Weeks Group and Shalibane - both fetched healthy premiums.

Pan Andean Resources, the oil-exploration company, eased 15.5p to 120p after its interim results showed no sales, no profits and little hope of black gold. Electrophoretics secured a patent for the much-publicised human CJD test on Thursday. Its shares finished 7p stronger at 77p.

Shares of Memory Corp, the silicon-chip repainer, now seem to

have bottomed out. They closed 48 per cent stronger over the week, at 315p.

Electronic Retail Systems fell back 23.5p to 217.5p as confidence in its product - digital supermarket shelf pricing - caused from the earlier levels of excitement. Bruce Failing, its chief executive, is touring Europe to bounce his idea off more supermarket groups.

Shares in ERS, the only company to be listed on both AIM and the Nasdaq, are proving vulnerable to a fall in confidence on either side of the Atlantic.

Word from the Stock Exchange is that its long-awaited AIM review is likely to come in the form of a series of corrections, rather than a pack of reforms.

As AIM welcomes a stream of larger and more profitable new issues, it is unlikely that the Stock Exchange will find much to alter.

FRASER NELSON

1996								1996								1996							
High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E		High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E		High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E	
150*	132	15.00	AFS Systems	150*	132	15.00	10.0	188	31	10.50	Firecrest	44*	132	15.00	10.0	76	42*	4.87	Nihon Palm	42*
135*	109	19.20	AMCO Corp	134*	109	19.20	4.6	183	22*	4.75	First Inter	23*	109	19.20	4.6	8	11*	0.12	Nihon Palm Wts	...	...	...
113*	67	18.50	AND Int Pub	96*	67	18.50	3	245	166	5.51	Flonics	215	166	5.51	3	116	41*	44.88	Nursing Home	113	...	32.5	
85*	58	3.27	Alcon Recruit	58*	58	3.27	1	341	253	0.86	Gen S	241	253	0.86	1	162	8*	22.00	Orchard Pub	162	+	0.8	
15	14*	1.47	Alcon Rec P/P	14*	14	1.47	2	46	39	9.05	FWH Hldgs	45	39	9.05	2	136	84	12.80	Orchard Pub	108*	+	1.3	
161	98	21.50	Active Imaging	117*	98	21.50	3.8	139	134*	14.30	Forman	135*	98	21.50	3.8	75	17*	1.53	Omnimedia	18*	-15*	...	
20*	123	28.50	A de Gaudy	200	123	28.50	15.8	37*	14	151.50	Freepages	34*	123	28.50	15.8	123	66	20.00	Orion Cars	10*	...	...
21*	13	15.90	African Gold	16*	13	15.90	1.5	144*	14	8.67	Fertig Homes	16*	13	15.90	1.5	250	25*	25.00	Pacific	10*	...	...
21*	13	1.14	Albion & Btl	16*	13	1.14	1.5	21	16	6.46	Gallier Trust	16	13	1.14	1.5	140*	17*	49.40	Pan Andean Res	120	-15*	...	
54	32*	6.85	Alzheim	30*	32	6.85	2	63	57*	17.80	Gallier Thompson Env	57*	32	6.85	2	220	180	5.14	Park Elect(Lv)	215	+	4.7	
40	20*	7.75	Alpha Omicron	10*	20	7.75	4.8	10*	8*	38.60	Gander Hldgs	13*	20	7.75	4.8	100	100	4.45	Park Elect(Lv)	215	+	4.7	
480	380	46.00	Ann St Brewery	480	380	46.00	12.9	100*	100*	34.80	Gen W&B	41*	380	46.00	12.9	337*	100	59.70	Philippine Gd	202*	+	25	
985	885	5.84	Ann St CV Pl	985	885	5.84	8.2	23*	16	27.20	Gold Mines S&D	21	885	5.84	8.2	184	107	24.00	Polymasec Pharms	120	-16*	...	
121	48	52.90	Antonov	72*	48	52.90	56.9	13*	8	6.43	Gold Mines S&D	12	48	52.90	56.9	4	3*	8.19	Portland Foods	34	...	...
9	7	1.66	Arion Props	7	7	1.66	1	22	6	2.85	Greenhills	9*	7	1.66	1	3	1	1.38	Portland Foods Wts	34	...	...
81	32*	29.40	Ashurst	32*	32	29.40	1	153	145	33.40	Grover Ltd	148	32	29.40	1	600	400	7.51	Presman Hlt Ctr	590	...	...
141	16	7.40	Ask Central	120*	16	7.40	1	218*	16*	24.40	HIT Entertain	17*	16	7.40	1	105	100*	16.00	Prison Hlt Pr	101*	...	...
64*	55	1.16	Athelney Trust	64*	55	1.16	1	41	17*	1.78	Hanson	17*	55	1.16	1	445	180	57.90	Prison Hlt Pr	445	+	30	
149*	123	45.00	BATM Adv Comm	145	123	45.00	47.7	255	156	10.70	Hemline A	245	123	45.00	47.7	3	2	0.85	R Foster Ast Man	3	...	...
66	5*	8.37	Bellway	62*	5	8.37	1	275	156	6.37	Hemline B	275	5	8.37	1	140	43	6.79	Rhalec	127*	+	...	
46	37*	3.33	Bellway Health	37*	37	3.33	1	255	156	10.70	Hemline A	245	37	3.33	1	6	5	1.38	Rhalec Pte	127*	+	...	
150	140	1.07	Bowman L&C	147*	140	1.07	3.8	85	50	3.75	Hemline Prop	84	140	1.07	3.8	18	15	11.90	Riceman Intc	18	+	...	
70	41	0.34	Brown L&C CV	70	41	0.34	1	130	120	0.76	Hurlingham	117*	41	0.34	1	99*	63	5.04	Romtec	97*	+	2.4	
107	89	3.84	Bt Bloodstock	91*	89	3.84	2.0	297	140	24.40	IES	160	89	3.84	2.0	4*	3	2.70	Rushmore Wynns	3	...	...
510	240	60.30	Brookbank	502*	240	60.30	16.3	288	130	2.88	W&S	130	240	60.30	16.3	156	151	16.90	SCS	161*	...	11.4	
134*	116	14.10	CA Courts Hldgs	109*	116	14.10	7.3	96	65	17.10	Ind Brit Health	65	116	14.10	7.3	54*	34*	3.19	SCS Satellite	31	...	...
110	100*	1.16	CCI Hldgs	132*	100	1.16	2.1	116	82*	11.70	Indl Energy	82*	100	1.16	2.1	75	54*	12.30	Sea Multimidia	161*	...	...
133*	95	4.14	Cale Inns	145	95	4.14	10	105	105	22.80	Indl Radio	126*	95	4.14	10	49	23	4.65	Scott Pictorial	37	+	7.6	
213	95	8.00	Callington Tel	67*	95	8.00	0.7	88	83	16.20	Intelligent Env	72*	95	8.00	0.7	68	28	14.30	Scott Pictorial	37	+	7.6	
75	68	13.70	Cardiff	64*	68	13.70	18.1	88	83	2.30	Internet Tech	2*	68	13.70	18.1	320	280	13.30	Scott Pictorial	37	+	7.6	
43	29	14.40	Card Clear	32	29	14.40	1.3	30*	503	24.80	Int'l Greenlnd	503*	29	14.40	1.3	80	122*	1.31	Seel	122*	...	...
108	91	9.58	Caribbean Ship	94*	91	9.58	8.9	163*	100	36.10	KC Int	100	91	9.58	8.9	137*	33*	6.61	Shelling	137*	...	3.6	
72	55	3.07	Cassidy Bros	50*	55	3.07	3.7	103	83	3.48	Jennin	83	55	3.07	3.7	174	164	20.80	Shilling Hndrs	171*	...	11.3	
50*	41	2.20	Cavendish W	18*	41	2.20	11.3	320	280	21.80	Jennin Bros	285	41	2.20	11.3	21	5	8.24	Shilling Hndrs	171*	...	...
21	16	6.16	Celebrated Group	18*	16	6.16	1	74*	48*	8.97	Jones	48*	16	6.16	1	1	1*	0.29	Sia Bus Serv	4	...	...
1325	650	82.30	Celtic	215	650	82.30	2.7	4	2	0.36	Just Group W&S	2	650	82.30	2.7	91	83	5.28	South State Sp	84*	...	...
1275	6450	127*	Celtic Pl Sls	127*	6450	127*	14.8	125	82*	38.10	KS Biomed	82*	6450	127*	14.8	595	524	129.40	Southern Sun	537	+	4.2	
124	109	16.40	CI Comm(TV)	115	109	16.40	17	180	137	46.10	La Sena	137*	109	16.40	17	79*	5	14.00	Southern Sun	537	+	4.2	
85	61	7.40	Charwell Int	62*	61	7.40	38.4	180	137	27.10	Lawrence En	149	61	7.40	38.4	297*	225	32.10	Stalwart	277*	+	2	
100	53	110.70	Chelsea Village	185	53	110.70	1	320	210	18.50	Lawrence	201	53	110.70	1	615	256	32.10	Stalwart	277*	+	2	
215	120	12.70	Chemical Design	180*	120	12.70	4.9	3750	2550	60.70	Lawrie Group	3250	120	12.70	4.9	201	75	9.83	Stanton	138*	+	...	
185	173	19.90	Circle Comm	149*	173	19.90	63.6	290	255	47.30	Le Riches Srs	285	173	19.90	63.6	136	54*	34.80	Stanton	138*	+	...	
155*	137	24.70	Circuit	110	137	24.70	3.1	15	12	0.60	Life Numbers	12	137	24.70	3.1	136	54*	34.80	Stanton	138*	+	...	
110	110	0.90	Clan Homes	27*	110	0.90	1	16*	13	4.35	Lon & Edin Pub	14*	110	0.90	1	138	61	13.30	Stanton	138*	+	...	
35	25*	11.60	ClubParsons	27*	25	11.60	7.3	95	85	0.86		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
100	85	0.24	Conc Tech A Pri	96	85	0.24	1	70	55	1.50	London Asst P	55	85	0.24	1	915	415	26.50	Tracodon Netw	500	-	5	
120	85	0.19	Conc Tech B Pri	125	85	0.19	1	346*	192*	38.00	Lorain Gap	342*	85	0.19	1	185	100	23.70	Tracodon Netw	500	-	5	
225	115	0.17	Conc Tech C Pri	225	115	0.17	1	4	4	7.35	Lorain Gap	4	115	0.17	1	180	180	4.88	Tracodon Netw	500	-	5	
47	37	8.47	Consider Test	38*	37	8.47	6.5	98*	15	0.80	M&W & Ouse	15*	37	8.47	6.5	170	165	23.80	Tracodon Netw	500	-	5	
127*	58	21.20	Country Gds	115	58	21.20	11.8	135	75	3.98	M&W & Ouse	75*	58	21.20	11.8	179	143	23.80	Tracodon Netw	500	-	5	
67*	69	3.32	Crown Gds	69	67	3.32	7	125	107	2.31	M&W & Ouse	107*	69	3.32	7	40	40	6.60	Tracodon Netw	500	-	5	
93*	43	19.80	Crown Gds	47*	43	19.80	4.7	117	92	56.60	Nagelomda	110	43	19.80	4.7	458	373	3.95	Udents	387*	...	1.3	
495	152	38.30	DBS Management	481	152	38.30	3.1	143	104	7.03	Nagelomda Wts	100*	152	38.30	3.1	250	192*	2.50	Udents	387*	...	1.3	
36	28*	13.71	Dalwell Int	28*	28	13.71	9.1	93	475	22*	28.20	Memory Corp	46*	28	13.71	9.1	650	130	8.55	Udents	387*	...	1.3
155	80*	3.71	David Glass	1600	80*	3.71	2.5	141	55	22*	16.00	Melcor Tech	24	80*	3.71	2.5	428	232	6.98	Voss Hlt	260
170	860	88.40	Dean Hgs	14*	860	88.40	12.8	43	22*	0.43	Melcor Tech Wts	22*	860	88.40	12.8	57	46	13.90	Waterfall	250	...	...
7	17	6.25	Dean Corp	14*	17	6.25	2.5	26.50	22	18	4.95	Moutonville Pkcs	10	17	6.25	2.5	21	13	3.58	Watermark	250
375	305	5.17	Denimaster	36*	305	5.17	1	101	65	1.95	Moutonville Pkcs	10	305	5.17	1	235	15	2.20	W&S	250	...	...
111	78	14.00	Digital Admin	78*	78	14.00	6.2	238	156	77.80	Mopress	156	78	14.00	6.2	105	5	0.14	W&S	250	...	...
4	4	3.07	Disco of Bath	4	4	3.07	1	203	147*	24.40	Multibury Group	148*	4	3.07	1	7*	6*	4.67	Weeks Group	7*	...	17.3	
137	38*	9.91	Econel	89*	38*	9.91	3	285	340	25*	21.50	HWF	340	38*	9.91	3	130	120	6.82	Weeks Group	7*	...	17.3
246	148	45.70	Elec Retail Sys	217*	148	45.70	23*	210	175	14.80	Nash (Wm)	210	148	45.70	23*	31	26	3.11	Westmont Equip	29*	...	47.7	
205	60	50.60	Electronics	77*	60	50.60	10	70	53	1.25	Natwide Res Pkcs	59*	60	50.60	10	85	89*	3.00	Whitcomb	94*	+	5	
120	120	1.11	Elco Sales	125	120	1.11	1	360	330	8.47	Nellie C	330	120	1.11	1	163	121	12.00	Whitcomb	94*	+	5	
475	325	10.40	Faraday	410	325	10.40	15	165	118	49.90	Nelson Cabotd	118	325	10.40	15	48	6.70	Whitcomb Mid	94*	+	5		
53	41	2.39	Fayrewood	46*	41	2.39	1.1	101	65	1.07	Norally H	97*	41	2.39	1.1	145	100	3.79	Wymysay Props	120	...	4.7	
136	10																						

Mumbo-jumbo, market forces and mimicry

Last night's television highlights consisted of two programmes on the same channel: one full of strange, oblique language concerning mysterious events and other-worldly perceptions. The other was about God. When in doubt as to where to start, I find it best to choose the programme that is easier to understand. So I shall start with God.

Heart of the Matter (BBC1) returned for another series and brought together philosophical, scientific and theological worthies wrestling with the question of whether scientific advance by its nature made belief in God impossible, or at least redundant. Heart of the Matter has developed from the somewhat cosy and formulaic programme it was some years ago into a first-rate vehicle for the exploration of moral issues.

The protagonist last night was Richard Dawkins, the Oxford professor and atheist, whose film

for the programme argued his familiar position that science has rebutted the central tenet of religion, which is that we are the product of an omnipotent creator.

There followed a studio discussion, ably steered by Joan Bakewell, which featured Dawkins, Baroness Warnock, Dr David Starkey, the theologian Wentzel van Huyssteen and the Roman Catholic scientist Michael Heller. I found the discussion a shade narrow, but at least it produced one or two startling moments.

Dawkins had said in the film that he believes that "the modern molecular digital gene is a nail in the coffin of the religious world view". Yet in the discussion Dawkins said: "If you use the word religion as a label for a sense of awe and wonder, almost a worship, of the complexity of the universe and of life then I am a religious person."

Set that statement alongside

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Warnock's remark that "the paraphernalia of religion" can be seen as "a metaphor rather than a superstition", and you are some way towards reconciling science and religion, for there are many thinkers in that church who do not believe that what would call the mumbo-jumbo of Christianity excludes a belief in God as humanity's name for the moral centre in each one of us.

If God and science present no serious problems for the engaged mind, last night's other newcomer does. Star Trek: Voyager (BBC1) need not detain me long, for I have always thought the cult status accorded to the original Star Trek was ridiculous and overblown, sentiments that apply in spades to this newcomer.

Now we are aboard the starship Voyager, commanded by Kate Mulgrew as Captain Janeway. She and her ship are no less two-

dimensional than was Kirk and the Enterprise and the dialogue is just as laden, if not more laden, with techno-babble. Thus does Janeway define last night's little problem: "If I'm not mistaken, we're looking at a type four quantum irregularity." And if I'm not mistaken, we're looking at a grade one bundle of hokum.

So enough of that and on to the global economy, as featured in the

first of a two-part documentary. The Hollow State (BBC2, Saturday). Simon Hoggart's thesis is that the nation state is all washed up, dispatched down the Swanee by the electronic interchange of money, ideas and goods.

This is hardly new, nor is it very alarming. Westminster and other parliaments have long resembled medieval jousting tournaments staged for foreign tourists. If global markets, rather than hapless politicians, are to be the engines of change then at least that makes the consumer king, for all markets are ultimately slaves to their customers.

And yet... Arthur C. Clarke said in the programme that: "the nation state is obviously obsolete". I hate to argue with the man who predicted geo-stationary satellites as far back as 1946, but just as science does not necessarily exclude religion, the global community does not necessarily exclude the

national state. National governments surely have a role in protecting the cultural wellbeing of citizens, who may wish to wave the Union Jack, even if it has been made by workers earning £100 a month in Guangdong province.

Governments losing their powers have only themselves to blame. Alvin Toffler, the American futurologist, talked last night about the "transition from a brute-force economy to a brain-power economy". Governments that prop up the former with ludicrous subsidies while closing their eyes to the latter have done more to demolish their own power base than any Hong Kong broker.

God, science, starships, shrinking nation states: I know, this is just what you needed on the way back to work on a Monday morning. So let us pay respects to the world's finest resource, which

is laughter, and give mention to Rory Bremner... Who Else? (Channel 4, Friday).

Bremner is a stupendous impressionist, the cat's whiskers. His show is almost wholly political and my only quibble is that he was halfway through the act pastures of a Paddy Ashdown speech before I realised this was neither Paddy Ashdown nor one of his speeches: Bremner's ear is so acute that his parodies sound like the real thing.

The two Johns, Wells and Fortune, are also back, this time to explain Government policy on monetary union. The policy is to have a policy of not having a policy, until such time as there is a need to change the policy to a policy of being in favour of monetary union or a policy of being against it.

Oh I see, that was a parody, too. Very good.

● Lynne Truss will appear tomorrow

6.00am Business Breakfast (41160) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Cesfax) (12059) 8.00 Breakfast News Extra (Cesfax) (808297)

9.20 Skyline (s) (505767) 9.45 Killy (s) (177377) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (58276)

11.00 News and weather (4066769) 11.05 Perry Mason, includes news and weather at 12.00 (s) (Cesfax) (8378479)

12.45pm Carver's Caribbeem (s) (87329027) 1.00 News and weather (Cesfax) (82818)

1.30 Regional News and weather (4571947) 1.40 Neighbours (Cesfax) (s) (3208756) 2.00 Call My Bluff (s) (6652058) 2.30 Turnabout (s) (1281837) 3.00 Who'll Do the Pudding? (s) (7856)

3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (8142479) 3.55 Bodge and Badger (s) (8515082) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (s) (Cesfax) (7079108) 4.35 Record Breakers (Cesfax) (s) (4295214) 5.00 Newsround (Cesfax) (7378030) 5.10 Blue Peter (Cesfax) (s) (2088189)

5.35 Neighbours (s) (Cesfax) (s) (645214) 6.00 News and weather (Cesfax) (127) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (479)

7.00 Telly Addicts. Noel Edmonds hosts the light-hearted quiz show searching for the Telly Addicts champions of 1996. (Cesfax) (s) (8637)

7.30 Mashed. The third semi-final of the 1996 Championship from the Opera House, Jersey. The specialist subjects are Gene Kelly, William Walton, Donalio and Albert, the Prince Consort (Cesfax) (s) (363)

8.00 EastEnders. (Cesfax) (s) (8565) 8.30 X Cars. Undercover cops Phil Sealey and Steve Lewis go in search of rain riders (Cesfax) (s) (7082)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News, Regional News and weather (Cesfax) (5092)

9.30 Panorama. Steve Bradshaw reveals the tricks of the trade, used by politicians, spin-doctors, to ensure their favourable stories are picked up by the media (Cesfax) (564769)

10.10 Chicago Hope. Walters enters a charity boxing competition and faces a tough street fighter called Tony. After taking several blows, Walters retaliates and knocks his opponent down. Tony is rushed to hospital with suspected concussion (Cesfax) (s) (199905)

10.55 Film: 96 in New York with Barry Norman. Barry Norman visits the Big Apple, where the New York Film Festival opens with Mike Leigh's Secrets and Lies. (Cesfax) (s) (725740)

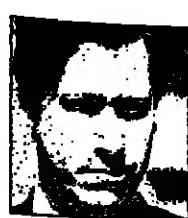
11.25 Film: Shadow Makers (1989). A powerful evocation of a great turning point in human history - America's decision in 1942 to attempt to build the first atomic bomb. Paul Newman plays General Leslie Groves, who appoints the brilliant scientist, Oppenheimer, to the project, despite his pacifist tendencies. With Dwight Dillard, Bonnie Bedelia, John Cusack, Laura Dern and Ron Frazier. Directed by Roland Joffe (127160)

1.25-3.20am Weather (2272362)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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Philip Bassett looks at funding new Labour

BUSINESS

HAUNTED 43

Past errors beset Brian McGowan's House of Fraser



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Watchdog would welcome Scottish sale by British Gas

By PAUL DURMAN

THE Gas Consumers Council yesterday welcomed the prospect of British Gas selling its gas supply business in Scotland and the north of England to Scottish Hydro-Electric. Discussions on the sale, which neither company publicly admits, signal another radical step in the proposed break-up of British Gas.

Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers

Council, said that a sale would be a "win-win" deal for consumers and the two companies. He said that consumers in Scotland and northern England should benefit from reduced gas prices. Scottish Hydro would substantially expand its gas interests; and British Gas would have a chance to escape many of its hugely loss-making "take or pay" supply contracts with BP, Shell and other oil companies. Renegotiation of these contracts, reduc-

ing the amount British Gas has to pay the oil companies, is likely to be a key part of any sale agreement.

Mr Powe said that many of British Gas's big industrial customers are in Scotland and the North. Offloading this business would allow British Gas to escape from many of its heaviest loss-making contracts.

Assuming that Scottish Hydro would not take on the business encumbered by

similar difficulties, it would be able to reduce the price of gas for domestic users ahead of the national introduction of competition in 1998.

Carolyn McAdam, a Scottish Hydro spokeswoman, said that the company already has "a huge amount of contact" with British Gas. The two companies are 50-50 joint venture partners in Seabank Power, a £300 million scheme to build a 755-megawatt gas-fired power station

near Bristol. Scottish Hydro also talks regularly to British Gas over its own, much smaller, "take or pay" problem.

Scottish Hydro managers went into its Perth offices yesterday to prepare briefings for staff on the possibility of a gas deal.

British Gas has only one more week to decide whether to ask the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the demanding price controls being sought by Ofgas, the industry regulator. The Ofgas

proposals for TransCo, the group's pipeline business, will slice £650 million from the company's revenues. Although Ofgas has relaxed slightly the controls that it proposed, British Gas remains deeply unhappy with the pricing formula. It is expected to seek an MMC inquiry.

A sale of the gas supply business in Scotland and northern England would complicate the issues that the MMC would need to consider.

Clarke's gold scheme wins IMF support

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund's ruling Interim Committee decided yesterday to go ahead with two major initiatives to ease the debt burdens on the poorest developing countries.

The debt plan was first proposed by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, at the Commonwealth finance ministers' meeting in Malta two years ago. It will eventually provide about \$6 billion worth of help to some 20 developing countries, which have begun successful economic reform programmes but are saddled with very large debts to official creditors such as the IMF and World Bank.

A related agreement will allow the "Paris Club", which represents the credit agencies of the main industrialised countries, to write off up to 80 per cent of the debts owed by countries which qualify for the IMF plan for debt relief.

As expected, the agreement on the debt plan was marred by a row between Germany and the other leading countries over whether the cost of the debt initiative could be funded partly by selling a small proportion of the IMF's gold and reinvesting the proceeds in interest-bearing securities. Germany has expressed concern that the sale of IMF gold may inspire pressures for the Bundesbank to sell some of its gold hoard after European monetary union.



Rubin: expects gold sale

Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, insisted over the weekend that Germany had not agreed to the sale of any IMF gold and would not agree to it in the foreseeable future. But Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, said that America expected the IMF to sell up to five million ounces of gold, worth about \$2 billion, to finance the plan.

Questioned about Germany's unyielding opposition to gold sales, US officials said they understood the German position, but Germany did not have the 15 per cent support on the IMF board it would need to veto the gold sales. If necessary Germany would be outvoted. In spite of the disagreement over gold, the Interim Committee decided to make a firm commitment to go ahead with the Clarke plan.

There was widespread scepticism in Washington about the ability of Romano Prodi, Italy's Prime Minister, to push such a painful package through his parliament. But the main doubts related to Italy's eligibility for EMU even if it implemented the cuts. If Italy is included from the start, monetary union will be much harder to sell to the generally hostile German public. As a result, Germany, France and the other core countries could find reasons to exclude Italy even if it satisfies the annual deficit requirement.



Better late than never: Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is escorted to a photocall, having kept his fellow European Union finance ministers waiting

Headhunters to recruit each other

By JON ASHWORTH

THE worldwide recruitment industry is primed for a wave of mergers and takeovers resulting in a handful of key players, shadowing similar moves in law, accountancy, and advertising, says a leading headhunter.

Stephen Rowlinson, chief executive designate of MSL, the recruitment advertising and headhunting firm, expects moves to accelerate in the next few years, as founder-directors step back and retire.

Mr Rowlinson, 56, who in the 1980s

ran the UK offices of Korn-Ferry International, the world's biggest headhunting firm, expects the recruitment industry to become dominated by half a dozen firms, in the same way that firms such as Arthur Andersen and Price Waterhouse have come to dominate the accountancy profession. He said: "The vast majority of these things are still founder-driven. I predict the emergence of some very large groups that will get the industry into a different generation."

Merton Associates, Mr Rowlinson's own headhunting firm, has merged with MSL, which is coming to the Alternative Investment Market through a placing that values the company at £7.5 million. Dealings are expected to commence next month. Garry Long, chairman, bought the firm out from the former Saatchi & Saatchi advertising group in 1992.

Mr Rowlinson hopes to use MSL as a platform on which to build an enlarged search and recruitment

group. He said: "MSL is an absolutely tailor-made core company to create a large — and what will be a highly-profitable — company in that sector. We have one of the few brand names everyone's heard of. The intention is to take MSL from its present position to a position of market leadership."

Competitors include Robert Walters and Michael Page. MSL employs 200 people and has ten UK offices. Abbey National, BP and the Bank of England are among the firm's clients.

Unions have sent £100m Labour's way since 1979

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TRADE UNIONS have spent well in excess of £100 million at 1995 prices in funding the Labour Party in the years since it has been out of office, a study by *The Times* shows today.

The study suggests that the trade unions' share of Labour's income is likely to fall close to 40 per cent next year — half its level when Labour was last in power.

The *Times*'s computer analysis shows that, at national level, the unions have contributed to Labour a total of £86 million, or more than £11 million at 1995 prices. However, this support is now only about 1 per cent of their total spending.

The unions' funding includes £60 million to Labour's general funds, and £26 million to the party's general election spending. Union spending at national level in the last general election campaign amounted to £4.98 million, excluding local help, such as the provision of cars and offices.

In addition, the unions contribute locally to constituencies in what used to be the sponsorship system for MPs, though party leaders are unable to put a precise figure on the unions' relatively low contributions at this level.

Labour managers are concentrating on the 90 constituencies that need a swing of 6 per cent or less to change to Labour and which have been designated by the party leadership as key seats, and have persuaded the unions to contribute particularly to general election campaign resources in all but a couple of these constituencies.

The union share of Labour's income is falling, and is down

from 80 per cent in 1980, the first full year after Labour left office, to 47 per cent now, according to the financial report to be presented to the annual Labour conference, which opens today in Blackpool.

Labour leaders believe that, with donations from prominent business figures continuing, the union proportion of Labour's income will fall further. The party expects to announce more business support at its conference this week and in the run-up to the general election.

Party leaders recognise that the unions now get their affiliation to Labour "on the cheap", as one official put it yesterday, and the party is now to make a comparative study of union financing of political activity in countries such as Germany and the US to obtain a broader perspective on union funding.

Ties that bind, page 46

IN BUSINESS TOMORROW



ANATOLE KALETSKY investigates a currency surprise that defies history

Eurotunnel banks set up key meeting

A crucial meeting of Eurotunnel's 25 biggest and most influential bank lenders this week could seal the fate of the debt-laden Channel operator.

The meeting, set for Friday, will be the first since the two mediators appointed by the French courts to arbitrate between Eurotunnel and its banks, retired from the fray.

The mandate for Lord Wakeham and Robert Badinter's intervention ends today, leaving Eurotunnel's management on its own to settle details of the £9 billion refinancing.

Friday's meeting will consider the latest proposals, thought to include a 49 per cent debt-for-equity swap and exchanging £2 billion of debt for convertible securities. A Eurotunnel source said: "We are all working on the assumption that a deal will be done."

Goldcrest case

The Serious Fraud Office case against Donald Anderson, former finance director of Goldcrest, a subsidiary of Brent Walker Group, is expected to begin today at Southwark Crown Court, in London. Mr Anderson, 43, a New Zealand citizen, denies attempting to divert the course of justice. He was charged by the SFO in November last year, following his return to the UK.

Firms failing

British business failures are still running at the rate of about 750 a week, well into the fifth year of recovery from recession. Figures from Dun & Bradstreet, the business information service, show that failures in the first nine months of this year were 30,414, a fall of only 2.9 per cent on the same period in 1995.

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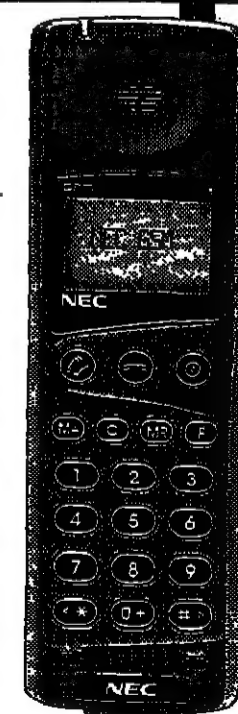
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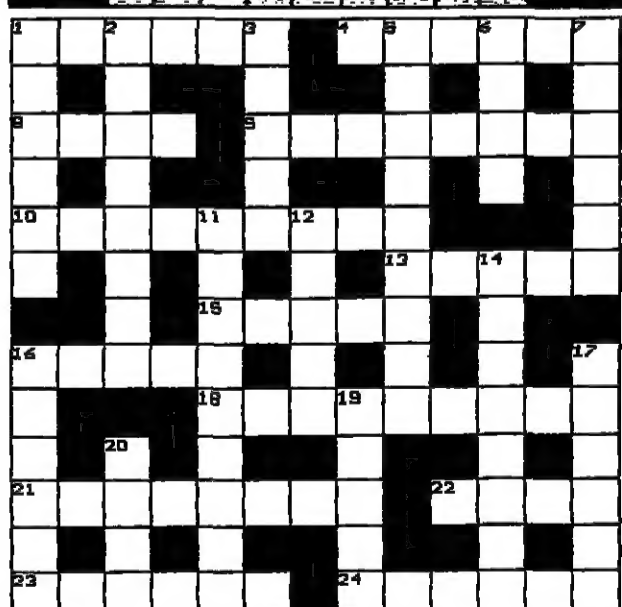
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 900

ACROSS

- Open to all (6)
- In words (6)
- Those manning eg ship (4)
- The exact phrase (3,5)
- Wife of US president (5,4)
- A preserved Egyptian (5)
- Worship (5)
- Defeated at chess (5)
- Peevish (9)
- Very great, very good (8)
- Team of workers, ruffians (4)
- Well-argued (6)
- Refuse to agree (to) (6)

DOWN

- Calm (one) down (6)
- Juicy red salad veg. (8)
- Humpy animal (5)
- Delight; exercise of right (9)
- Play music for coins (4)
- Room for manoeuvre (6)
- A custom (9)
- Secret love affair (5)
- Sheet of tissue (8)
- One intuiting the divine (6)
- Importance, gravity (6)
- Become (able for) (5)
- An amphibian; decorative braid (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 899

ACROSS: 1 Done to a turn 7 Japan 8 Auditor 10 Skylight 11 Lava 13 Insult 15 Marley 17 Epic 18 Colorado 21 Outcome 22 Abate 23 Deerstalker

DOWN: 1 Do justice to 2 Nippy 3 Tangible 4 Agatha 5 Undo 6 Netball 9 Ready-to-wear 12 Panorama 14 Stilted 16 Coveys 19 Aback 20 Pope

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